

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF ORAH BELLE  
SHERMAN

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in the last days of Black History Month, I want to be sure this Congress honors the memory of Orah Belle Sherman, a woman who served our democracy well. In the eyes of some, her labor may have seemed humble, but her spirit was great. For 41 years, Orah Belle Sherman served the citizens of Atlanta as the hostess of Paschal's restaurant, and the comfort and hospitality of Paschal's reached the very soul of the Civil Rights Movement.

The role of the capable hostess is fully acknowledged in politics today. Sometimes decisions that impact the history of mankind may be made in the relaxation of social environments. A hostess is the architect of that relaxation, creating a seamless atmosphere of comfort where minds can meet undistracted and strike an agreement. Her grace eases the tension of division, and the ambience she offers invites opposing sides to sit down together. Orah Belle Sherman was a master hostess among hostesses because her grace not only cooled the tensions of ideological differences but momentarily silenced the ravages of racism.

In a segregated Atlanta, where a cacophony of signs declared "White Only," "Colored Only," "Colored Waiting," "White Waiting," in the heart of a hostile America, in the recesses of the Jim Crow South where a wilderness of racism threatened the future of this nation, Paschal's became an oasis of friendship, brotherhood and peace. There African Americans were always welcomed by Orah Belle Sherman.

She created a safe space where men and women who were outcasts of mainstream America could socialize in dignity and peace. In her haven of comfort and acceptance, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ambassador Andrew Young, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Benjamin Mays and many other soon-to-be great men of the Civil Rights Movement were welcomed, fed, and given the room to deliberate. In the loving glow of Orah Belle Sherman, they strategized the actions that would become the Movement we know today. Many of the great civil rights speeches, the plans for marches and sit-ins, the boycotts and sermons were discussed in the ambience of Paschal's restaurant.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that, "Love is the most durable power in the world. This creative force is the most potent instrument available in mankind's quest for security and peace." The love of Orah Belle Sherman has an enduring place in the history of the Civil Rights Movement. She is a gem of the South that reminds us of a culture of hospitality that is slipping away. Her graciousness and charm consoled the builders of a new day

for America. She will long be remembered in the hearts of all the lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING THE HONOREES OF  
THE 57TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SERV-  
ANTS MERIT AWARDS

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the nine honorees of the 57th Annual Public Servants Merit Awards Luncheon, held Friday, February 13, 2004. This event was hosted by the Cuyahoga County Bar Foundation and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association.

Tim Brennan currently serves as the Civil Division's Assistant Personnel Director/Acting Office Manager for the Clerk of Courts, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. Tim assists with interviewing applicants for the Clerk's office, promoting employees, and assisting in resolving personnel disputes.

Tim and his wife, Janene are Lakewood residents and have been married almost as long as Tim has worked in the Clerk's office. They met as employees of the Clerk's office and have three children, Patrick, Megan, and Molly.

Tim is very active in Lakewood and Cuyahoga County Democratic Party activities. He became interested in politics at an early age, as the son of Judge Hugh P. Brennan. Also, Tim has been active for many years with St. Mark's Church.

Despite his many accomplishments in work and politics, Tim feels that his greatest achievement is securing the love and support of his family.

Since 1974, Tom Bykowski has been an office mainstay for the Cleveland Municipal Court. As a supervisor in the office, he is responsible for drafting the judgment entries and other pleadings.

Tom attended St. John Cantius High School and Cuyahoga Community College. He is a longtime Old Brooklyn resident and lives with Helen, his wife of more than 25 years, and their children Benjamin and Kate. Tom is devoted to his family, but still has found time to be active in his local community development corporation, his parish school, as well as his ward & county Democratic Party activities.

He often spends his days asking the tide of people passing through the Clerk's office, "How can I help you" because he enjoys contact with the public.

Richard L. Gray has been employed at the Lakewood Municipal Court since 1974. He began his tenure in the Criminal Division and, for more than 20 years, has been the Clerk of Court.

Richard has been honored by many organizations for his work, and is particularly proud of his 1991 nomination as the Outstanding Clerk by the Ohio Association of Municipal

Court Clerks. He is a past President of that organization, as well as past President of the Northeastern Ohio Municipal Court Clerk's Association. He remains an active member in both organizations.

Richard is also an Army veteran of the Vietnam campaign and a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College. He and his wife of more than three decades, Janice, live in Lakewood where they raised their two children, Jessica and Alissa.

Terri Lynn Hudak is a Deputy Clerk/Supervisor in the Cuyahoga County Probate Court's Data Entry Department. She began her employment with the Court after graduating from Parma's Valley Forge High School, 23 years ago.

Terri and her department are responsible for entering new filings on the court's docket, organizing files for transmission to the Court of Appeals and assisting the public in locating court records.

She still lives in Parma with her husband Paul and their children Matthew and Valerie. She is active in St. Charles school events, parish activities, and her neighborhood block committees.

Terri says that raising her family, supporting her children's sporting events, and working full-time are her most outstanding accomplishments.

Dorothy Lawson began her work with the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court as a typist in the court constable's office. She then went on to serve as a scheduler for as many as four judges at one time.

For the past 15 years, Dorothy has served as the personal bailiff, first for Judge William E. Mahon and currently for Judge Brian J. Corrigan. She views her 1989 promotion to personal bailiff as one of her greatest accomplishments in life.

A Euclid resident, Dorothy lives with John, her husband of almost a quarter century. She spends much of her time evaluating the creativity of the excuses given by tardy lawyers. However, she fundamentally believes that her three decades of service has allowed her a deeper understanding of the judicial system.

Regina Laura Mandanci has worked for Domestic Relations Court for 24 years. She is the nominee of Administrative Judge Timothy M. Flanagan. For the past two years, Gina serves as Personal Bailiff to Judge James P. Celebreeze, after over 20 years in the Central Scheduling Department.

Gina, a Florida native and Brecksville High School graduate, lives in Brecksville with her children, Nickolas and Jessica. She is proud of her service in the Domestic Relations Court, which she started with just out of high school.

Mary Jo O'Toole is a Judicial Secretary at the Eighth District Court of Appeals with 17 years with Judge Ann Dyke. Nominated by Judge Kenneth A. Rocco and Presiding Judge Michael J. Corrigan, Mary Jo, after a brief detour into the private sector, has worked in the courts for over 20 years, shortly after her graduation from Holy Name High School.

Mary Jo and Patrick, her husband of 16 years, live in Avon with their two children,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Megan and Brian. The family enjoys weekends at their cottage and spent many years renovating their residence, a century home.

Carolyn Penn, nominated by Juvenile Court Administrative Judge Joseph F. Russo, is a Probation Manager at the Court's Bedford Heights office, where she manages a staff of probation officers and administrative assistants who deal with delinquent, unruly and violent children living in the southeast portion of Cuyahoga County.

A graduate of Central State University with a master's degree from Case's School of Applied Social Sciences Administration, Carolyn lives in Cleveland Heights. The widow of James E. Penn, Jr., and the mother of a grown son, James E. Penn III, Carolyn was also honored by a Cleveland Mayoral proclamation for her years of service to at-risk children and the community.

Carolyn volunteers with senior citizens and participates in charities, along with actively supporting individual political candidates and social service ballot issues. She takes pride in her work and protecting her community.

Pauline Pope is the Assistant Chief of Security in the Bailiffs Department of the Cleveland Municipal court, where she has worked since 1986.

Presiding and Administrative Judge Larry A. Jones's nominee, Pauline previously worked for the City of Cleveland, as part of more than a quarter century of public service. She works hard to assure that the employees and the public enjoys a safe environment in the Court.

Pauline came to Cleveland after graduating from high school in South Carolina. She is active in ministries, nursing homes and prisons. Early in her court employment career, she was assigned to provide security to the late Judge Carl B. Stokes.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the United States Congress, I pay tribute to the leadership, dedication, support, and commitment of the 2004 Annual Public Servants Merit Award honorees.

#### HON. THE WORK OF REVEREND RUBEN LOUIS ARCHIELD, SR.

#### HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Ruben Louis Archield, Sr., a great friend, teacher, and counselor. As pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas since 1963, Reverend Archield has served the spiritual needs of his congregation and the San Antonio community.

Under Reverend Archield's direction, Friendship Baptist Church has enjoyed an unparalleled period of growth as many new buildings have been constructed and programs established to serve the ever-changing needs of the surrounding community.

Reverend Archield has also contributed to the community through involvement with organizations such as the Baptist Ministers' Union, the Citywide Brotherhood of San Antonio, the National Baptist Convention, the San Antonio Development Agency, and the Project Drug Abuse Center. For these extraordinary deeds, Reverend Archield received the San Antonio

Register's Pulpit Heritage Award and the Patriarch Award from Greater Love Baptist Church.

February 22, 2004 marks Friends and Family Day at Friendship Baptist Church, a time to come together with special friends and loved ones to worship and express thanks for our many blessings. I wish Reverend Archield and the members of Friendship Baptist Church all the best on this special day.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who courageously have demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. The hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff have earned several of its members the highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials—The Valor Award.

There are several types of Valor Awards awarded to a public safety officer: The Life-saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. During the 26th Annual Awards Ceremony, 53 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2004 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: Second Lieutenant Steve J. Elbert, Sergeant William E. Friedman, Private First Class Morris F. Hood Jr., Private First Class Dena M. Hubbard, Private First Class Steven P. Queen, Master Deputy Sheriff Juan L. Romero, Sergeant Mark W. Sites, Second Lieutenant Elaine M. Stanley, Private First Class Zachary D. Taylor, Private First Class Huihao Wang, Private First Class Kenneth W. Wing, Jr.; the Certificate of Valor: Private First Class Peter J. Fox; the Bronze Medal of Honor: Deputy William L. Bishop, Second Lieutenant Gregory A. Merck, Sergeant Eli G. Rejelli.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all men and women who serve the Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff. The events of September 11th serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us each day. These individuals' continuous efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our community. Their selfless acts of heroism truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEKHITARIST FATHERS' ARME- NIAN SCHOOL'S 25TH ANNIVER- SARY

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian School. On Saturday, February 28, 2004, members of the Armenian community in Southern California will gather to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian School.

The school is the pride of the Armenian community. Its impressive curriculum, dedicated faculty and administration, quality extracurricular activities, devoted parents, alumni and committed Trustees serve as strong pillars of this unique educational institution.

The Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian school was established in 1979 with dreams of rearing and educating young Armenians about their past. Yet they taught their pupils to appreciate their new home in America and establish respectable, productive and thriving communities as well as the importance of making lasting contributions to society.

In 1998, when the school had prospered to more than 350 students, they leased a campus in La Crescenta. The school was facing unlimited difficulties. Mekhitarist Fathers had a very short time to find a home for those whose educational responsibilities were put upon their shoulders. They proved without a doubt that despite insurmountable obstacles, they fulfilled their seemingly impossible responsibility toward this community when they purchased their own land on Foothill Boulevard, in Tujunga.

Today, the number of students has dropped due to obstacles that the school has had to overcome. Yet, that is what has made this institution stronger. As Fr. Augustine Szekula said, "It is the very existence of nurturing Armenian schools in the Diaspora that supports and indeed, enables our Mother country [Armenia] to exist, and for our rich Armenian cultural heritage to continue to flourish with dignity and grace."

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Mekhitarist Fathers' Armenian School's invaluable service to the community and congratulate them upon their 25th anniversary.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOEING ENGINEERING TEAM

#### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to represent NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and numerous space contractors. Throughout North Alabama, scientists and engineers are working diligently to create the necessary technology to take humans and cargo into space. In addition, the innovative research and development that is being done and managed by the Marshall Space Flight Center and its partners is having significant and positive impact on our Nation's quality of life.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of Boeing's Space Launch Initiative TA-2 Self-Reacting Friction Stir Welding Cryogenic Tank Demonstration Team. Recently, these engineers from Huntsville, Alabama and Huntington Beach, California, successfully joined two twenty-seven foot diameter aluminum barrels together using a new process that utilizes friction rather than traditional welding methods. This successful test at the Marshall Space Flight Center was the largest test of the circumferential self-reacting friction stir welding. Boeing officials recognized this significant achievement by awarding this engineering team with the Boeing Silver Phantom Award.

This process will help NASA to overcome many technical obstacles that it will face during its ambitious exploration plans. By using friction, rather than electrical or gas fusion methods, the weld is significantly stronger and performed at a higher quality and lower cost. This process enables a wider range of options as NASA considers designs for future space launch vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I close by sending my sincere congratulations to the Self-Reacting Friction Stir Welding Cryogenic Tank Demonstration Team for winning Boeing's Silver Phantom Award. I am proud to recognize their hard work and dedication that led to this important technical achievement.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2003  
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.

Since the 1830's, Members of Congress have enjoyed meeting, talking with, and nominating these superb young people to our military academies. But how did this process evolve? In 1843, when West Point was the sole academy, Congress ratified the nominating process and became directly involved in the makeup of our military's leadership. This was not an act of an imperial Congress bent on controlling every aspect of Government. Rather, the procedure still used today was, and is, a further check and balance in our democracy. It was originally designed to weaken and divide political coloration in the officer

corps, provide geographical balance to our armed services, and to make the officer corps more resilient to unfettered nepotism and handicapped European armies.

In 1854, Representative Gerritt Smith of New York added a new component to the academy nomination process—the academy review board. This was the first time a Member of Congress appointed prominent citizens from his district to screen applicants and assist with the serious duty of nominating candidates for academy admission. Today, I am honored to continue this wise tradition in my service to the 11th Congressional District.

The Academy Review Board is composed of six local citizens who have shown exemplary service to New Jersey, to their communities, and to the continued excellence of education in our area—many are veterans. Though from diverse backgrounds and professions, they all share a common dedication that the best qualified and motivated graduates attend our academies. And, as true for most volunteer panels, their service goes largely unnoticed.

I would like to take a moment to recognize these men and women and thank them publicly for participating in this important panel. Being on the board requires hard work and an objective mind. Members have the responsibility of interviewing upwards of 50 outstanding high school seniors every year in the academy review process.

The nomination process follows a general timetable. High school seniors mail personal information directly to the Military Academy, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy once they become interested in attending. Information includes academic achievement, college entry test scores, and other activities. At this time, they also inform my office of their desire to be nominated.

The academies then assess the applicants, rank them based on the data supplied, and return the files to my office with their notations. In late November, our Academy Review Board interviews all of the applicants over the course of 2 days. They assess a student's qualifications and analyze character, desire to serve, and other talents that may be hidden on paper.

This year the board interviewed over 50 applicants. Nominations included 9 to the Naval Academy, 10 to the Military Academy, 5 to the Merchant Marine Academy and 8 to the Air Force Academy—the Coast Guard Academy does not use the Congressional nomination process. The recommendations are then forwarded to the academies by January 31, where recruiters reviewed files and notified applicants and my office of their final decision on admission.

As these highly motivated and talented young men and women go through the academy nominating process, never let us forget the sacrifice they are preparing to make: to defend our country and protect our citizens. This holds especially true at a time when our nation is fighting the war against terrorism. Whether it is in Afghanistan, Iraq, or other hot spots around the world, no doubt we are constantly reminded that wars are fought by the young. And, while our military missions are both important and dangerous, it is reassuring to know that we continue to put America's best and brightest in command.

ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2003 11TH  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Ryan M. Cortner, Scotland, International School  
Michael P. Dickson, Flanders, Mt. Olive H.S.  
Marc D. Honrath, Dover, Morris Knolls H.S.  
Asha Padmanabhan, Raritan, Bridgewater—Raritan  
Heather G. Pinsky, Morristown, Morristown H.S.  
Edward J. Schmeltz, Chatham, Chatham H.S.  
Anthony Stegman, Sparta, Sparta H.S.  
Christopher A. Wolff, Mendham, West Morris Mendham H.S.

MERCHANT MARINE

Steve R. Kline, Chatham, Chatham H.S.  
Vincent J. Lusardi, Rockaway, Morris Hills H.S.  
Jarrod M. Prill, Boonton, Boonton H.S.  
Eric B. Warner, Morris Plains, Parsippany Hills H.S.  
Richard W. White, Bloomingdale, Butler H.S.

MILITARY ACADEMY

Corey R. Belton, Brookside, West Morris Mendham HS  
Assison T. Gaydosh, Bridgewater, Syracuse University  
Sean P. Groome, Andover, Lenape Valley H.S.  
Ross Kuskovsky, Livingston, Livingston H.S.  
Anthony A. Margue, Randolph, Randolph H.S.  
Michael A. Robinson, Brookside, West Morris Mendham H.S.  
Allen J. Rooney, Madison, Madison H.S.  
Stephane M. Slotten, Mendham, Newark Academy  
Christopher M. Tarney, Chatham, Seton Hall Prep  
Ernie Young, Whippany, Whippany Park H.S.

NAVAL ACADEMY

Sean K. Bergstrom, Mendham, Delbarton  
Bradley C. Fromm, Madison, Madison H.S.  
Chris Lakhiani, Mountain Lakes, Mountain Lakes H.S.  
Julie-Ann Latona, Madison, Madison H.S.  
John S. Quick, Liberty Corner, Oratory Prep  
Jonathan V. Salmon, Bridgewater, St. Joseph's H.S.  
Brian M. Schenig, Pompton Plains, Pequannock H.S.  
Sarah A. Shewmaker, Short Hills, Millburn H.S.  
Michael R. Wooters, Morristown, Seton Hall Prep  
Michael J. Zecca, Bridgewater, Bridgewater—Raritan H.S.

HONORING U.S. MARSHAL MARK  
TUCKER

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of North Carolina's most respected law enforcement officers, a man whom I am proud to have called a friend.

Deputy Mark Reid Tucker served our community as both a Wake County Sheriff's Deputy and a U.S. Marshal for eastern North Carolina. No matter the rank, law enforcement was a job he loved—and a job he did exceedingly well. He was killed in the line of duty earlier this month at 49 years of age.

Always equipped with a strong sense of right and wrong, Mark thought of law enforcement as a calling. It was a job that suited him perfectly.

Mark joined Wake County's Sheriff's Department in 1976. I first knew him as the president of the local chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police, and he has championed the interests of rank and file law enforcement officers from that position since 1988. After serving with the Sheriff's Department for some 20 years, Mark's lifelong interest in politics spurred him to pursue a federal marshal appointment in the Clinton administration. It was a long, hard battle, but Mark showed characteristic stamina as the process dragged out for several years. When his nomination appeared indefinitely stalled because of partisan battles over Presidential appointments, President Clinton decided to use a rarely invoked recess appointment privilege, and Mark went on to be confirmed to a full term as U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina on May 24, 2000. There is no federal appointment that has given me more satisfaction, both because we worked on it so long and because Mark served with such dedication and distinction.

Mark was thrilled to be a part of the U.S. Marshals Service. He took security very seriously, working with local judges, Federal agencies, and my office to ensure that the courthouse was brought up to the standards for Federal judicial facilities. He also recognized that he had a responsibility to maintain good relations with the community. Taking on the role of an unofficial goodwill ambassador for the Marshals Service, Mark usually carried a deputy's badge in his pocket that he could award to a smiling child or interested citizen. When President Clinton left office, Mark returned to the beat in Wake County, going back to his roots and to the people who had long relied on his commitment to the job.

Mark was only the fourth officer to be killed in the line of duty in the Wake County Sheriff's Office's 71-year history, and the overwhelming response of his fellow officers makes clear how acutely they felt his loss. An entire community of law enforcement officers—from the DEA to the Marshals Service to local deputies—came together to find the person responsible, making an arrest within 48 hours. They said it was the least they could do for the deputy they described as "well-respected," "dedicated," and "a gentleman, as well as a friend." Close to 1,500 people from law enforcement across the State attended his memorial service.

Mark leaves behind his loving parents, Dallas and Virginia Tucker, his wife Patricia, and sons Chad and Matthew. This tragedy has thrust the whole family into the media spotlight, and Patricia in particular has spoken of her husband and the circumstances surrounding his death with courage, compassion, and dignity.

Mark Tucker perfectly exemplified the dedication of our law enforcement community, and his death is a reminder of the risks these officers take for us every single day. But Mark was one of a kind, a unique combination—a cop's cop, a skilled political leader, an active and engaged citizen, a solid family man, a magnetic personality. His death is a great loss for the community, and we will miss him terribly. May we find comfort in the outpouring of affection and respect and gratitude that his memory has brought forth.

## RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CRISTINA VILLARREAL

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Cristina Villarreal, a staff member who will be leaving my Washington, DC, office this week.

Cristina came to our office after graduating from American University to work as a staff assistant. She worked her way up to serve as a scheduler and as a legislative aide working on foreign affairs issues. Cristina has worked with me as we developed legislation (H. Res. 466) to call attention to the disturbing abduction and murder of hundreds of women taking place in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. H. Res. 466 conveys the sympathy of the U.S. House of Representatives to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encourages increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes. Cristina also helped me organize a Congressional delegation to travel to Mexico to bring light to the over 300 young women who have been killed in Ciudad Juárez over the last decade. Cristina shares my commitment to bringing light to this human rights issue.

Cristina is beloved by her colleagues and will be missed by them. As Cristina moves on to pursue graduate education, I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

## THANKING COL. LEE FARMER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Lee Farmer for his service to the country for over 30 years in the United States Marine Corps. On March 4, Colonel Farmer will be retiring from the Corps, completing a career marked by dedication and excellence.

Colonel Farmer was commissioned as an officer in November 1973. Early in his career he served as a Rifle and Weapons Platoon Commander as well as the Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines. He remained with the Battalion as it became the first unit to initiate the unit Rotation Program, relocating to Twentynine Palms, Calif. There he served as a Rifle Company Commander for two years and was later assigned as the Staff Secretary of the 7th Marine Amphibious Brigade.

After graduating from the Amphibious Warfare School in 1982, Colonel Farmer served as Aide-de-camp to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. In July 1984 he was reassigned to the Basic School, Quantico, VA, where he eventually assumed command of Company A. He then attended Marines Corps Command and Staff College.

He later transferred to Okinawa, Japan, where he served as the Assistant Plans Officer to Marine Aircraft Group-36. Transferring to Camp Pendleton in 1987, Colonel Farmer

was later deployed to Southwest Asia and participated in Operation Desert Shield.

Following the war, he attended the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, in preparation for his two-year assignment to Chile where he attended the Chilean Naval War College. He was reassigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, at the Pentagon, in July 1993, where he worked counter-narcotics issues until his assignment as the Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Following this assignment, he returned to Camp Pendleton to command the School of Infantry. After leaving Camp Pendleton for another brief assignment in Okinawa, Japan, he again returned to Camp Pendleton, where he served as the Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations and Training until his reassignment as the Chief of Staff in May 2001.

Since Colonel Farmer assumed his role as Chief of Staff, he has worked closely with my office on a number of issues. Colonel Farmer has distinguished himself as an honest, sincere, and hard-working leader—ready to listen and always ready to help. During Colonel Farmer's tenure, Camp Pendleton has become one of our Nation's finest defense installations, training Marines who have served on the front lines of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Camp Pendleton Marines are in the process of returning to Iraq, replacing the Army's 4th Infantry Division in the largest troop rotation in history. These Marines will now carry out a task that is critical to our national security and to the security of the entire Middle East. They have been prepared by the leadership of Camp Pendleton—Colonel Farmer and the commanding officers who serve alongside him. These leaders of Marines have good reason to be proud of their service.

It has been a pleasure working with Colonel Farmer. We are grateful for his distinguished service to our country. He will be missed.

## MINORITY HOME OWNERSHIP AND THE WOW INITIATIVE

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the importance of homeownership in our country; the difficulties that many Americans have becoming homeowners; and the financial strain put on Americans, particularly minorities, when seeking reasonable housing options.

Homeownership is an effective way for Americans to establish wealth and solidarity for their families. More should have the ability to pass homes from generation to generation, with the comfort and knowledge that home is more than a roof over one's head, but that home is a possession. Most consider purchasing a house a major investment, perhaps the largest that one will ever make, but to many it is more than an investment; it is the first step in achieving the American Dream. Families that own homes are entitled to an added sense of pride and a feeling of belonging to a neighborhood or community.

We should strive for all families to have the means necessary to become homeowners and

to live comfortably. The fact that homeownership is unrealistic for so many Americans is disheartening. Homeownership has proven to be a tremendous difficulty for a large number of Americans. As housing has gradually become less affordable, families are struggling to pay their rent, let alone mortgage. Housing is considered affordable when a person spends less than 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgage, but contrastingly 4.9 million Americans spend more than 50 percent of their income to remain in their homes. In Illinois, nearly 420,000 renting families, about 30 percent of the total number of renters spend more than 35 percent of their income on rent, 258,000 spend more than half of their salaries on rent; as a result many do not consider home owning an option when apartment living is a struggle in itself. Subsequently, of the Illinois residents who have been fortunate enough to purchase homes, 370,000 of them are spending more than the affordable rate of 30 percent, which is a 38 percent increase from 1990 to 2000.

Financial stress due to housing costs has become an incredible burden in the United States. Unfortunately the frustration shared amongst all Americans occurs at an increased level for minorities, particularly African Americans. African Americans lag behind the U.S. population 48 percent to 68 percent in homeownership. The great wealth gap between African Americans and the rest of the nation creates varying levels of housing affordability, thus what is affordable to some is not affordable for others. In the Chicago metropolitan area alone, there are 850,000 individuals living at or near poverty. For Americans whose everyday reality is grim and discouraging due to lack of financial resources; for Americans who are overlooked despite their hard work; the means to live comfortably are unattainable unless a considerable increase in affordable housing is made.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation has joined with many partners and sponsors including Habitat for Humanity, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac to stride towards a resolution for the homeownership gap where African Americans, other minorities and low-income families are receiving the short end of the stick. The With Ownership, Wealth Initiative (WOW), was created several years ago to give African American families an opportunity to build wealth through homeownership. The Initiative recognized the rates of African American poverty and homeownership as significantly imbalanced with those of Americans as a whole, and in turn set forth to begin closing the gap. WOW offers credit counseling, housing counseling, home buying assistance and other resources which help families to get on a track that will lead to ownership. After participating in events organized by the WOW Initiative, I am proud to report 200 preapproved mortgages and 103 actual closings in the Chicago area. I commend the CBCF, WOW and its partners for understanding the urgent need to ensure housing affordability for minorities and low-income families. Further, I applaud their success leading families a step closer to our American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress the need for affordable housing for all Americans and further I would like to emphasize the importance of WOW and other programs which share similar goals. These programs along with an end to drastic cuts in funding for hous-

ing and the development of more affordable homes are an absolute necessity to aid our country in its current housing crisis.

#### COMMENTARY ON THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION DNC BLACK HISTORY MONTH PETITION

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the comments of some Georgia residents into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. For Black History Month, the Democratic National Committee queried African Americans asking them to write in and describe how the policies of President George W. Bush's administration are affecting them. The following are the words of Georgia residents who responded:

John A. Olagoke, Dallas, Ga.: "Dear Mr. President, For the very first time in American History, I have never seen such a mess up in the American Economy. So many of us African Americans have lost their jobs, their homes, their assets and everything they have worked hard for. I am talking about well-educated people, Mr. President. Most of our telecommunication jobs are being moved overseas for cheaper labor. Last week, again, over 500 co-workers were laid-off at my company. I and others can no longer wait until the November election. I intend to take two of my family members who have not voted for eight years with me to the polling station to express our feelings."

Arnitta Lawson, College Park, Ga.: "In spite of the fact that I have a job, I am very worried that the job I do have will not last. I was laid off once because of 9/11, as well as other family members. [I was] forced to take menial jobs and worry about how to get food for the children, pay bills and try to get a job. I am very distrusting of Republicans such as George W. Bush."

Ginny Albert, Atlanta, Ga.: "Mr. President, because your administration has been so lax and deliberately cruel to the middle class, the corporations who have filled your coffer, thanks to the tax cuts and special initiatives that favor businesses over people, these same corporations now feel that they can be negligent and indifferent toward their customers and employees. They demand more and pay less in every sector. They have cut back on benefits, and in some cases have eliminated benefits altogether. Yes, your lack of true caring toward the non-rich has engendered a sense that cruelty toward people is okay and acceptable, and that employers no longer have to promise their workers anything. And another thing, why have you not initiated a program that will assist the unemployed in keeping their homes. Legislate something that will make it impossible for companies to foreclose on unemployed Americans. The homeless rolls are growing under your administration. If you care, put a stop to it."

#### TRIBUTE TO GARRETT AUGUSTUS MORGAN

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I rise today to pay tribute to a highly gifted and innovative African-

American whose inventions play an integral role in public safety all across the world. I would like to take a few moments to recognize Garrett Augustus Morgan's contributions that have improved public safety today, and forever.

Garrett A. Morgan was born in Paris, Kentucky on March 4, 1877. Although Morgan was born into poverty and attained only a fifth grade education, he aspired to be successful. In 1895, while he was a teenager, he moved to Cincinnati and then to Cleveland, Ohio to pursue his ambitions. Morgan started off working in a sewing factory later established his own sewing factory. Morgan was curious by nature and began to venture into other projects.

In 1909, he discovered a substance that straightened hair and made African-American's his target patrons. This product was sold to African-Americans through his own G.A. Morgan Hair Refining Co. He later achieved the financial security to pursue other ideas.

Morgan received national attention for using a gas mask he had invented to rescue several men trapped during an explosion in a tunnel that was being built to ease congestion under Lake Erie. Many fire departments became interested in these gas masks, because they filtered the air in the tunnel. These masks were later used in World War I, and Morgan received a patent for a Safety Hood and Smoke Protector in the following years. Among other awards he received for this invention were a gold medal at the International Exposition of Sanitation and Safety, and a gold medal from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

In 1920, Morgan collaborated and established a newspaper for African-Americans, called the Cleveland Call, which is now known as the Call and Post. After first running a sewing firm, inventing the gas mask, and creating the Cleveland Call, Morgan gained a great reputation as a worker and entrepreneur. But it was Morgan's invention of the traffic light that he is most remembered for. After observing an accident between a vehicle and horse-carriage, Morgan was zealous to improve public safety. In the early 20th century, many accidents were common partly because animal transportation, pedestrians, and vehicles shared streets. Instead of being satisfied with his prior achievements, Garrett A. Morgan subsequently was granted a patent for the traffic signals. He later sold his rights to his traffic signal to the General Electric Corporation for \$40,000.

Garrett A. Morgan died on August 27, 1963 at the age of 86. Due to his safety inventions, the world is much safer. I ask you all to take a moment to ponder on how many lives have been saved due to Garrett A. Morgan's innovative inventions. I like to salute a Cleveland Legend, businessman, inventor, and hero. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA COUNSELING ACT

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of legislation I am introducing today, the "Military Sexual Trauma

Counseling Act of 2004." This legislation would permanently extend VA's authority to offer services to women and men who experienced sexual harassment, abuse or assault while serving on active duty in the armed services.

Congress originally authorized VA to offer sexual trauma counseling in November 1992 in the wake of the Tailhook Scandal where U.S. naval aviators were found to have sexually abused 14 women officers and 12 civilians at a 1991 convention in Las Vegas. In the wake of another scandal at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1998, legislation resulting in the extension and expansion of authority for the sexual trauma counseling program was enacted. I want to commend my colleague on the VA Committee, Luis Gutierrez, for his hard work in support of this legislation.

As the number of women serving in the military continues to grow, the need for this program is sadly more evident. According to a VA report, more than half (55%) of all women in VA's patient population said they had experienced sexual harassment while in the military, and almost one-quarter claimed to have been sexually assaulted. Although the military is moving to address some of the long-standing problems it has had in managing sexism of all kinds in its increasingly integrated armed services workforce, we cannot expect the military's culture to change overnight.

VA's sexual trauma counseling programs are designed to create a secure and sensitive environment in which women who served in the military can deal with the emotional burden of being a victim of sexual abuse. Studies have shown that almost a third of all rape victims have active cases of post-traumatic stress disorder. Typically individuals who seek care may need other types of VA services including appropriate treatment for the psychological effects of trauma, in addition to medication and treatment for the substance use disorders that sometimes arise from victims' attempts to "self-medicate" symptoms such as stress, impaired concentration and nightmares.

Since the program was authorized, VA has embraced the challenge of developing unique resources to serve women and men who suffered such abuses during their military service. The program does not limit its services to veterans and is authorized to provide services to members of the National Guard and Reserve and others who were on active duty, such as trainees, who may never attain veteran status.

To date, thousands of veterans have received VA sexual trauma services and a General Accounting Office study shows a general satisfaction with the programs provided. All VA medical centers, in addition to some vet centers, have resources available to veterans and reservists. It is through effective intervention and counseling that individuals may overcome some of the problems associated with sexual trauma and return to normal, productive lives.

In 2002, the Committee on Veterans Affairs examined the status of VA's health programs for women. One witness, Linda Spoonster-Schwartz, the former Chairperson of the VA's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and now the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in Connecticut had this to say:

Surely by now, this Committee is aware that the need for this treatment program will persist as long as incidents of sexual assault and trauma continue to occur in the ranks of our military. For all practical pur-

poses, this problem is not going away. Indeed, there is no question that there is sufficient utilization of VA resources committed to treat veterans who were victimized while in the service of their country. Women of all ages and periods of service continue to seek assistance from VA for the physical and emotional aftermath of these traumatic events. The burning question to this Committee is why hasn't this become a permanent program of the VA?

The time is right to give this proven program the permanent authority it deserves. I urge this Congress to pass this bill so sexual trauma counseling services will be available to current and future generations of veterans.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

#### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOLF and I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who courageously have demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. The hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have earned several of its members the highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials—The Valor Award.

There are several types of Valor Awards awarded to a public safety officer: The Life-saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. During the 26th Annual Awards Ceremony, 53 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the RECORD the names of the recipients of the 2004 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Receiving the Life-saving Award: Technician Brent M. Schnupp; the Certificate of Valor: Master Technician John L. Capps, Master Technician Even J. Lewis, EMS Captain Gary D. Pemberton; the Silver Medal of Honor: Firefighter Michael V. Allen, Lieutenant Edward D. Bowman, Haz-Mat Technician Thomas L. Flint, Captain Samuel L. Gray, Firefighter Richard D. Riley, Master Technician Timothy A. Sparrow, Lieutenant Daniel T. Young; the Bronze Medal of Honor: Master Technician Anthony E. Doran, Firefighter Clayton Thompson III.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all men and women who serve the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. The events of September 11th serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us each day. These individuals' continuous efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our community. Their selfless acts of heroism truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### TRIBUTE TO FATHER AUGUSTINE SZEKULA

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly honor Father Augustine Szekula. Father Szekula is being honored on the joyous occasion of 60 productive years of distinguished service and leadership in Armenian, religious, cultural and literary endeavors.

Father Szekula is a man for all seasons—devoted parish priest, distinguished educator, prolific author and editor. He is highly respected by the Armenian communities throughout the world, especially in the United States, Lebanon and Austria, where his dedicated service and visionary leadership has impacted a score of students and priests.

Father Augustine Szekula was born on September 19, 1921 in a city called Gyergyoszentmiklos, Transylvania, which currently is Gheorgheni in Romania. His ancestors emigrated in 1913 from the city of Ani, part of the historic Armenia. In 1931, Father Szekula attended the Mekhitarist Seminary of Vienna and was granted membership into the congregation in 1938. In 1946, he received his masters degree from the State University of Vienna. From 1946 through 1993, among his other duties, he served as director of the Mekhitarist "Madenataran," the museum, and the Chancery and editor of "Hantes" Armenian Review. Father Szekula went on to become Vice-Superintendent of the Mekhitarist Seminary in Vienna, Austria, principal of the Mekhitarist school in Hasmie, Lebanon and parish priest of the Armenian church in Budapest, Hungary.

Today, he is the Principal of the Mekhitarist Fathers' School and continues to serve the Armenian community with his leadership and wisdom. Please join me in extending congratulations to Father Szekula on his 60 years of exemplary community service.

#### TRIBUTE TO AUNT EUNICE MERRELL

#### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Eunice Merrell, known affectionately as Aunt Eunice to everyone that knew her. Aunt Eunice passed away last week at the age of 84.

Aunt Eunice was the proprietor and host at Eunice's Country Kitchen. There you could find friendly faces and good down-home cooking. In addition to the best biscuits in North Alabama, Aunt Eunice never met a stranger. She loved every one of her customers and especially her community. Her restaurant was in business for over 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, there was no place like Eunice's Country Kitchen. It was a part of local legend. At Eunice's, people from all walks of life at all stages of life, were welcomed.

I considered Aunt Eunice a close friend and trusted advisor. She was the type of person



who would speak her mind and report what other people were saying about the issues, not what she thought you wanted to hear. She could always be counted on to give honest opinions on developments, controversies, and issues in the community. I believe that Aunt Eunice was part of the unique fabric that makes North Alabama such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. She will be deeply missed.

Aunt Eunice is survived by her sisters Naomi Johnson and Elizabeth Lyon, brother John Jenkins, son Joseph, daughters Doris Elkins and Linda Sledge, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, as well as countless friends and admirers. My thoughts and prayers are with them all.

**BILL MCNEAL: NATIONAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR**

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud to inform my colleagues that last Friday, the American Association of School Administrators selected Wake County Superintendent Bill McNeal as the 2004 National School Superintendent of the Year.

Bill has a career of service to Wake County that dates back to 1974, when he arrived to teach middle school social studies. He rose through the ranks to serve as an Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent and Associate Superintendent. He is a graduate of Merrick Moore High School in Durham, North Carolina and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina Central University. Bill is the definition of a homegrown leader, and I couldn't be more pleased that his outstanding commitment to education has been recognized on the national level.

As Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services, Bill played a key role in developing Goal 2003, Wake County's groundbreaking effort to take elementary education to a new level. Adopted by the Wake County Board of Education in 1998, Goal 2003 aimed to have 95 percent of the county's third and eighth graders performing at or above grade level in 5 years. Upon assuming the position of superintendent in 2000, it was Bill's challenge to implement strategies for achieving this goal. The tremendous academic improvement which has been achieved as a result is a testament to Bill's leadership and to the power of pursuing a common endeavor on behalf of our children.

Today the Wake County Public School System serves more than 104,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade in 79 elementary schools, 25 middle schools, 16 high schools, and 5 special/alternative schools. It is North Carolina's fastest growing, highest-performing large urban school district. With a record-high average score of 1067 on the SATs, a low dropout rate, end-of-grade test scores higher than the state average for every ethnic group and income level, and continued academic growth among struggling and advanced students alike, it's evident that Bill's emphasis on academic excellence for all children has had a tremendous impact.

As a former teacher himself, Bill has worked hard to make sure that the views of educators are valued and utilized in the school system's planning efforts. He has convened the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council to provide him ongoing feedback about teacher and classroom issues. In addition, he recognizes that the success of schools depends on teachers accepting increasingly complex roles and leadership responsibilities. The challenge is to create the conditions necessary for success and to structure the work of teaching to make it more attractive and rewarding.

Mr. Speaker, as I join in recognizing Bill McNeal for this tremendous honor, I also want to thank him for his service to the schools of North Carolina's 4th District. Just this week, Forbes Magazine named the school system he leads third in the nation on its Top Ten List for the Best Education in the Biggest Cities. I know that Bill's outstanding efforts in Wake County will continue to serve as a model for others across the country.

**HONORING TOWNSHIP OF WEST CALDWELL**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of West Caldwell, in Essex County, New Jersey a vibrant community I am proud to represent. Incorporated on February 16, 1904, the good citizens of West Caldwell are celebrating the Township's Centennial Anniversary with special events throughout the entire year.

In the very early history of our country, well before the American Revolution, the towns known today as Caldwell, West Caldwell, North Caldwell, Verona, Essex Fells, Roseland, Fairfield, Cedar Grove and Livingston were inhabited by the Lenni Lenape Indians. As Europeans emigrated to the New World, however, property ownership changed hands; and soon the entire region was purchased by the newcomers and renamed Horseneck. A century after Puritans settled the "metropolis" of the area known as Newark in 1666, steadily growing populations spurred settlers to move slightly westward to occupy what would be the Caldwells in the early 1700s. Almost 50 years of peace followed, until disputes over property rights with the Royal Proprietors of the colony led to jailbreaks and protests led down the narrow, dusty road called Bloomfield Avenue, which today remains a major business corridor through Essex County.

At the time of the Horseneck Riots in 1745, James Caldwell, after whom the Caldwells are named, was a young boy of about 11 years. By the time of the Revolution, though, he was an adult, a minister, in fact, who had endeared himself to the people of Horseneck by journeying over the mountains to preach to them. During the War for Independence not long afterwards, Caldwell earned the nickname "the Fighting Parson" because of his aid to Washington's men as they battled in various parts of Horseneck. Following the Revolution, a local chapel was finally erected and in memory of the Fighting Parson who had stood with them since colonial times, the citizens of Horseneck in 1798 renamed their home "Caldwell."

Caldwell Township flourished throughout the 1800's. Prescribed by physicians as a "pure air" retreat for patients with all kinds of ailments, the quiet region was home to about 485 people (1800 census). Franklin and Westville, what would eventually become known as West Caldwell, began to grow as well. Westville, owned predominantly by the Crane and Harrison families, whose historical homes still exist, was the site of farming lands and the local sawmill. Franklin, on the other hand, was the principal business center of Caldwell Township and had an economy supported by firms, a store, two factories, a cider mill and distillery.

By 1904, the population of Caldwell Township had grown and become so spread out that public renovations could never be approved by residents on both sides of town. To alleviate the problem, on February 16, 1904, West Caldwell was incorporated as an individual borough comprised of 3,175 acres and 410 people. Like every suburb of the metropolitan New York and Newark, New Jersey area, the 20th Century brought with it incredible growth and today West Caldwell boasts more than 11,000 proud residents who treasure the Township's legacy of patriotism, its small town flavor and its strong sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of West Caldwell on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history and the building of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NIKKI YAMASHIRO**

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Nikki Yamashiro, a dedicated, thoughtful, and intelligent young woman who I have been fortunate to have working on my staff for over two years.

Nikki first began working in my Washington office as an intern in the winter of 2001. We were pleased to have a resident of Monterey Park, a community I represent, and a graduate of the University of California at San Diego, in our office. Nikki quickly showed us the qualities that would make her a valuable contribution to our team—her intelligence, willingness to work hard, and commitment to the residents of California's 32nd Congressional District.

Nikki gradually worked her way up from an intern to her current position of Legislative Assistant. Along the way, she spearheaded my office's participation in the Congressional Arts—Competition and improved the efficiency of our constituent mail system. Last year, she played a key role in strengthening two bills I introduced—the Domestic Violence Courts Assistance Act and the Domestic Violence Prevention, Education, and Awareness Act. Nikki is a true champion for women's rights and has helped me build nationwide support for these bipartisan bills.

I am very proud of her work, but I am most proud of the work Nikki did to shepherd into law a bill important to our community—the Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office Act (Public Law 108-116). Lance Corporal Martinez Flores was a courageous Marine from

Duarte, CA, who lost his life while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nikki and I worked together to get all 53 Members of the California delegation on board as cosponsors of a bill to rename a local post office after Francisco. Nikki would not rest until we achieved our goal—and I am proud to say the post office will be officially renamed on February 28, 2004.

Although I am proud that Nikki is choosing to pursue graduate education, I know that our office will not be the same without her. Nikki is very much loved and respected by everyone she works with. I wish Nikki the best of luck in all her future endeavors. I have no doubt she can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

#### HONORING THE OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good works of the Oceanside Rotary Club on the occasion of their 80th Anniversary. The Oceanside Rotary Club was founded in 1924 and during the past 80 years has undertaken numerous philanthropic projects in its community, the nation and around the World.

The Oceanside Rotary Club has a proud motto of "Service Above Self". The club has contributed in renovation of historic structures and provides books for Marines on deployment. Oceanside Rotarians have sponsored an orphanage and senior center in Baja, Mexico and provided wheel chairs for seriously injured people in the country of Malawi.

Five years ago, Oceanside Rotary raised more than \$35,000 to buy and donate automatic external defibrillators to the City of Oceanside.

In 2002 the Oceanside Rotary Club began providing musical instruments for Oceanside Unified elementary and middle school students.

This year the Oceanside Rotary Club raised money to feed 200 needy families during the holiday season.

The Oceanside Rotary Club continues to support Rotary International's "Polio Plus" program, which is on track to eradicate this disease world-wide by the year 2005.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize the Oceanside Rotary Club for over 80 years of noteworthy service. It is these types of organizations that make our country strong. We are proud of their service to our community.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VS. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION

##### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education.

This case has been acknowledged as the commencement of other milestones from the civil rights struggle. As we take the time to embrace and celebrate, Brown vs. Board of Education has truly become ground zero of the civil rights movements. This movement has affected African Americans tremendously; although Brown has opened many doors for African Americans some have remained closed. It is unfortunate that our society has not truly integrated.

Brown vs. Board of Education's primary focus was to integrate schools; however it did not pertain to anything occurring outside of schools. Several schools had been integrated, but as time persists we are continuing to revert back to a time of segregation within the schools.

Fifty years ago the U.S. Supreme Court realized the truth that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Consequently, educational integration is an essential prerequisite to achieving a just, democratic fair society, which was finally acknowledged by the high court. If the U.S. Supreme Court had not recognized this ongoing dilemma that continuously occurred I may not be standing before you all today. There would not have been as many African American's pursuing or fulfilling their dreams and providing a better lifestyle for themselves and their family.

Although Brown opened many doors and we have experienced same success, nevertheless much remains to come, such as the problems surrounding housing, poverty, inadequate education for minority children, and increasing the enrollment for post-graduate studies. Yet today, 50 years after this landmark decision, more African American, Latino, and Native American children attend segregated and unequal schools than ever before.

Currently, Black communities in every part of the country, including schools, are experiencing an increase in segregation; although it does not surpass the stratum of the pre-civil rights of the South.

Despite the fact, in my state, Illinois is one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan communities; and has been consistently among areas in the nation's most segregated, in terms of their schools. The National Center for Educational Statistics conducted a study on African American males ages 16–24 are more than twice as likely as white males to be both out of school and out of work.

It is horrendous that children of today are continuing to experience segregation within educational institutions. For instance, a study conducted by Harvard University in 2001–2002 stated, in Illinois, 18 percent of African American students attended white schools, while 61 percent of African Americans attended minority schools. Some African American children are forced to attend school in dilapidated buildings; many do not receive an adequate education, and several are displaced into special education frequently because the teacher cannot manage the child's behavior.

The school dropout rate is higher for African Americans than for whites. According to the Chicago Reporter, 2 out of 3 African American male students who entered high school did not graduate from high school within 5 years. White high school graduates are much more likely to go to college and complete college than African Americans. The problem also persists throughout post graduate degrees. For instance, of the 17,000 dental students en-

rolled in U.S. dental schools in 1998–1999, less than 1,000 were African Americans, according to the American Dental Association (ADA). The Journal of Dental Education states that, African Americans instead have a higher percentage in jobs with lower skills and lower pay, such as a Dental Assistant rather than a Dental Hygienist. This clearly demonstrates the inequalities in education for African Americans.

The Supreme Court was supposed to create and continue the legacy of "separate but equal," however our Nation is truly experiencing desegregation in public schools.

African American students nationwide are unbelievably disproportionately placed in special educational classes. These individuals who have been overly classified as special education students are confronted with the denial of equal opportunity. When compared to white children, African American children were three times as likely to be labeled "mentally retarded" or "emotionally disturbed," while minority students are usually misclassified, inadequately served, receive low quality services, or segregated from white students according to a study by Harvard University.

Currently, education is perhaps the most important function of the state and local governments. Education is a principal instrument in awakening children to their cultural values, in preparing them for later professional training, and in helping them to adjust normally to their environment. If we take away a valued education, how can we expect any child to succeed in life? Education in not an opportunity, but it is a right, which the states must make available to all on equal terms. Unfortunately, as time recedes, the condition of receiving a quality education worsens daily for African Americans. Although Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream he also had a nightmare, which has been forgotten. He predicted and was concerned that the promise of Brown and the civil rights law would deceive those who dedicated their lives and souls for the struggle of justice: In his last book, "Where do we go from here? Chaos or Community," he stated,

For twelve years I, and others like me, had held out radiant promises of progress. I had preached to them about my dream. I had lectured to them about the not too distant day when we would have freedom. "all, here and now." I had urged them to have faith in America and in white society. Their hopes had soared. They were now booing . . . because we had urged them to have faith in people who had too often proved to be unfaithful. They were hostile because they were watching the dream that they had so readily accepted turn into a frustrating nightmare.

Now it is our duty to realize the promise of Brown, so long deferred and still so necessary for progress to occur within our Nation. I would like to leave you with one more quote by Dr. King back in 1959. He said, "As I stand here and look out upon the thousands of negro faces, and the thousands of white faces, intermingled like the waters of a river, I see only one face—the face of the future." So, too, must we. Even though we may not be here to see all the fruits of our labor, we plant these seeds for that child being born. We plant them for the young people of our future.

"Separate can never be equal!"



GREAT AFRICAN AMERICAN  
LEADER IN AGRICULTURE

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pearlie S. Reed, a native of Heth, Arkansas, attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry in 1970. He then attended graduate school at American University in Washington, D.C., where he earned a degree in Public Administration-Finance in 1980.

Mr. Reed began his career with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service in a temporary appointment in June 1968 as a Soil Conservationist Student Trainee. Thirty years later, in March 1998, he became the chief executive officer for USDA's Private Lands Conservation agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service. He served NRCS in various positions and locations including District Conservationist, Budget and Accounting Officer, Administrative Officer for NRCS National Headquarters, Deputy State Conservationist in Wisconsin, State Conservationist in Maryland and California, Regional Conservationist, and the Associate Chief for the agency. Under the Clinton administration, Mr. Reed served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration that led the most powerful USDA Civil Rights Action Team that developed the most comprehensive report ever written to document the status of Civil Rights in USDA.

As the Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration, Mr. Reed provided leadership for USDA-wide offices and functions, such as the Office of Civil Rights, the Office of Human Resources Management, procurement, contracting, and facilities and property management, the Office of Small Business Utilization, the National Office of Outreach, the Board of Contract Appeals, the Office of Administrative Law Judges, and the Office of the Judicial Officer.

As the Team Leader for the Secretary's Civil Rights Action Team, Mr. Reed provided the leadership for recommendations to address civil rights problems in programs delivery and employment, and actions to ensure accountability and follow-through. The Secretary accepted the findings from that project, and committed to act on all 92 recommendations. The work of the Civil Rights Action Team is recognized as setting the direction for civil rights policy at USDA that semantically reformed a movement within USDA.

As the Chief of NRCS, Mr. Reed served as the executive officer for USDA's private lands conservation agency serving communities in all 50 states, the Pacific Basin, and the Caribbean area. He led a conservation partnership consisting of over 12,000 federal employees, 15,000 conservation district officials, 7,000 conservation district employees, 20,000 Earth Team volunteers, and 350 Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Mr. Reed served as a leader of several USDA-wide activities, such as the chair of the USDA/1990 Task Force, chair of the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force, chair of the USDA National Food and Agriculture Council,

and the USDA representative on the United States Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

As Associate Chief, Mr. Reed served as the chief operating official for NRCS. Under his leadership, NRCS initiated a workforce planning process that was recognized by the National Academy of Public Administration as a model for other agencies. He led the development and implementation of the most comprehensive reorganization of the agency in its 60-year history. With a strong commitment to customer service and conservation partnerships, he initiated the American Indian outreach effort for NRCS to work directly with tribes. He also provided leadership in the development and implementation of the Conservation Title of the 1996 Farm Bill.

Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary for the Natural Resources and Environment said of Mr. Reed, "I believe that if you look up the term 'public service' in the dictionary, you'd likely see a picture of Pearlie Reed there next to it."

Mr. Reed has had a distinguished career, with 35 years of service which also included international conservation experience and service outside the continental United States. His contributions in South Africa, Australia, and with the International Soil Conservation Organization, exemplify his span of influence as a strong leader, visionary, and unquestionable natural resources conservation ethic.

Mr. Reed received numerous awards for outstanding sustained performance, including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award—the highest award that can be bestowed upon a Career Senior Executive Service member. Another significant award included is the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for equal opportunity and civil rights that recognizes his vision and leadership in the most comprehensive reorganization in the history of NRCS.

Other recognitions he has received includes the Professional Service Award from the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Soil and Water Conservation Society Award, the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award, and the Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff. Another tribute to Mr. Reed was the naming of several campus buildings, including the Pearlie S. Reed/Robert Cole Smith Farm Outreach-Wetland Water Management Center by the University of Arkansas System's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Reed is a soft spoken man of few words; a visionary who is marked by foresight, and a person who has distinguished himself by making contributions to conservation in America that will never be forgotten. He is a dedicated man that has never wavered from his work ethic: "Each day I come to work, I think about what is important and how the NRCS can get more conservation on the ground."

TRIBUTE TO JESSE OWENS

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special person, athlete, and role model in African-American

history: Jesse Owens. Born "James Cleveland," Jesse Owens was the son of a sharecropper and the grandson of a slave. He was born into a modest household in Alabama, and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, with his family at the age of nine in hopes of finding better employment for his father. During his first day of school in Cleveland, his teacher mistook his name to be "Jesse"; and that nickname stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Jesse went on to attend East Technical High School in Cleveland, where his natural talent for running was immediately recognized by the school's track coach. Jesse was unable to attend after-school track practices because of the numerous jobs he held on the side, including delivering groceries, loading freight cars, and working in a shoe repair shop. Realizing Jesse's abilities, the track coach agreed to meet with Jesse before school. With the refining of his natural talent, Jesse was able to set world records in high school for the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, and broad jump.

After being aggressively recruited by top universities, Jesse chose to attend the Ohio State University to continue his athletic and academic career. As Ohio State did not give out track scholarships at this time, Jesse continued to work several part-time jobs to provide for his education, himself, and his wife, Ruth. He juggled his employment with his studies and an intense practice and competition schedule. Jesse continued to excel in track and field, despite the discrimination and segregation he faced on a daily basis. He was forced to live off-campus in housing designated for African-American athletes, and he was not allowed to eat with the rest of his teammates when they were on the road and ate at "whites only" restaurants.

Overcoming all of these obstacles, Jesse continued his record-setting career in his first year in college, as he set world records for the 220-yard dash, the 220-yard low hurdles, and the broad jump and tied the world record for the 100-yard dash. Prior to his record-breaking broad jump, Jesse boldly tied a handkerchief at the height of the previous world record and then confidently jumped an entire six inches above it.

Wanting to take his competitive skills to the next level, Jesse entered the 1936 Olympics, which were to be held in Berlin, Germany during the reign Adolf Hitler. Jesse was used to the discrimination he felt at home and was determined to show Hitler's Germany, and the world, that there was no such thing as a "dominant race." He did just that. Jesse swept the competition by winning the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, and the broad jump. He was also a member of the gold medal-winning 400-meter relay team and set three world records during the competition. His performance placed him permanently in the history books as the first American to win four track and field gold medals in a single Olympics. Perhaps more importantly, Jesse's unprecedented performance caused many people around the world to reconsider their notions of race and capabilities.

Unfortunately, when Jesse arrived home to the United States, the racial barriers that he left were still in place. "I wasn't invited to shake hands with Hitler, but I wasn't invited to the White House to shake hands with the President, either," he said. Showing his grace and class, Jesse did not turn bitter, but rather

went on to become a public speaker and advocate for youth sports programs in disadvantaged neighborhoods. His humanitarian efforts were not carried out in vain, as he was awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Gerald Ford in 1976, the highest honor a U.S. civilian may receive.

On March 31, 1980, Jesse Owens passed away after a battle with lung cancer. He left behind his wife and three daughters, numerous world records, and a legendary performance in Germany that reshaped the world's notions of race. He gave America hope during a time when America gave him a seat in the "blacks only" restaurant and a place to stand on the bus. During this month in which we honor Black History and the significant achievements of African Americans, it is proper and fitting that we recognize Jesse Owens as a champion of track and field and, more importantly, humanity.

#### HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPACT OF THE US-VISIT PROGRAM ON SOUTH TEXAS COMMUNITIES

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an issue of great importance to the communities of South Texas—the United States Visitor and Immigration Status Indicator Technology (US VISIT) program. I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas, Congressman JIM TURNER for his leadership on homeland security issues. He is a great advocate for improving our national security infrastructure at all levels.

We face many challenges in the homeland security area, from the need to improve our intelligence capabilities to providing more resources for local first responders. Without question, we need to continue efforts to improve our national security. But, we must do so in a way that does not undermine our economy. Security and commerce must go hand in hand.

Without a doubt, one of the goals of the September 11th terrorists was to damage our economy. We should not let them win by imposing security measures without the proper infrastructure and preparation needed to make them work smoothly. Texas is the gateway for trade between the United States and Mexico, one of our largest trading partners. Our ports along the border, from El Paso to Brownsville, handle the majority of land-based trade with Mexico. Laredo and El Paso are the two largest ports of entry and six out of the top 10 lands ports are in Texas.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Port of Laredo with the Ranking Member, Mr. TURNER, to hear first hand about the impact of US-VISIT on our border communities. We met at the World Trade Bridge which, along with a sister bridge, accounts for roughly 40 percent of all overland trade between the United States and Mexico. The US-VISIT program, as currently designed, poses a great threat to our border and national economies. We clearly lack the infrastructure to handle the new requirements. Even without US-VISIT, our border infrastructure is inadequate to meet the current demands and future potential. We

need to improve our roads, build new bridges, and update our technology. With implementation of the US-VISIT program, we face the likelihood of greater delays, confusion, and a decrease in legitimate trade and tourist travel.

We must not tolerate any decrease in border trade. Our goal must be to expand it while improving our security. To do so requires more investment. To do so requires the development of new technologies that will protect us while allowing more people and goods to cross our borders.

We need to better understand how US-VISIT will impact us. For that reason, I have requested, through Ranking Member TURNER, that the GAO study the economic impact of US-VISIT on our land ports and to report on what infrastructure and technology we need in order to avoid an economic disaster. Once we have that information, and only then, can we decide how to properly carry out our border security measures.

And it's not just communities directly on the border that will suffer. Cities like San Antonio, a major trade gateway, will suffer similarly as trade becomes snarled at our ports and as trade literally moves elsewhere.

We must also address the unfairness of the existing border visa program. Currently, Mexican citizens can obtain a border laser visa, a secure document that allows them to enter the United States for 72 hours and travel no more than 25 miles from the port of entry. Obtaining a laser visa requires extensive background and security checks. Applicants are screened and checked. For that reason, we should also insist that holders of laser visas not be required to go through any duplicative requirements of US-VISIT, such as photographing and fingerprinting. Moreover, the 72-hour limit is unfair and if strictly enforced would devastate many border economies. We should allow laser visa holders to stay in the United States for up to six months.

These laser visa holders are an important part of our economy. Many of them have businesses, homes and family members in the United States. We must protect our security, but we must value our visitors who do not come to harm us, but rather to visit our country and contribute to our economy.

#### RECOGNIZING THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WOLF, and I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. Each year, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce recognizes individuals who courageously have demonstrated selfless dedication to public safety. The hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the Fairfax County Police Department have earned several of its members the highest honor that Fairfax County bestows upon its public safety officials—The Valor Award.

There are several types of Valor Awards awarded to a public safety officer: The Life-

saving Award, the Certificate of Valor, or the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Medal of Valor. During the 26th Annual Awards Ceremony, 53 men and women from the Office of the Sheriff, Fire and Rescue Department, and the Police Department received one of the aforementioned honors for their bravery and heroism.

It is with great honor that we enter into the record the names of the recipients of the 2004 Valor Awards in the Fairfax County Police Department. Receiving the Lifesaving Award: PSCC Assistant Supervisor Jackie A. Ahrens, Police Officer First Class Garrett G. Broderick, Public Safety Communicator Gail M. Gibson, Police Officer First Class Daniel V. Johnson, Detective Thomas P. Lawn, Sergeant Shawn C. Martin, Police Officer First Class Weiss Rasool, Officer Stacy L. Sassano, Police Officer First Class Donna E. Shaw, and Detective James N. Sparks, III; the Certificate of Valor: Police Officer First Class William G. Brett, Senior Police Officer Robert A. Galpin Jr., Detective Matthew G. Payne, Detective Steven T. Pihonak, and Detective Gene M. Taitano; the Silver Medal of Honor: Police Officer First Class Timothy W. Cook; the Bronze Medal of Honor: Master Police Officer Bryan K. Cooke, Second Lieutenant Scott C. Durham, Master Police Officer Charles M. Haugan, Second Lieutenant Daniel P. Janickey, Police Officer First Class Ryan W. Morgan, Senior Sergeant John W. Orpin, Private First-Class David B. Patterson, Officer Randolph G. Philp, and Officer Frederick W. Von Meister.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all men and women who serve the Fairfax County Police Department. The events of September 11th serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our emergency service workers make for us each day. These individuals' continuous efforts on behalf of Fairfax County citizens are paramount to preserving security, law, and order throughout our community. Their selfless acts of heroism truly merit our highest praise. We ask our colleagues to join us in applauding this group of remarkable citizens.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ASBAREZ, ARMENIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT IN CALIFORNIA

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bilingual daily newspaper, Asbarez, as it celebrates its 95th anniversary of establishment in California. Asbarez, which means 'arena' in English, was founded in August of 1908 in Fresno, California. At that time those who had come from Armenia looked to Armenia and Armenians for guidance, and the seven founding fathers, noticing the community's desire to preserve its heritage and identity, created Asbarez, with the hope of bringing the community and the homeland together.

Asbarez was born through the sacrifice of all those involved. In the words of Edward Megerdichian, who worked at Asbarez from 1956–1963, "[Asbarez] was ninety percent voluntary, and everyone had a sense of ownership, a sense of community—that this is our paper and our lives are described in this

paper." It was with such dedication that the newspaper persevered to keep all the Armenians in California informed and connected.

Recognizing that there was an important role for Asbarez to play in the growing Armenian community in Southern California, Asbarez Publishing Company moved its operation to Los Angeles in the 1970's. In the last three decades, Asbarez has become a bilingual daily newspaper, becoming the voice of the Armenian-American community from libraries to newsrooms.

Today, what was once a small paper has grown to thousands of subscriptions, and is read in numerous countries reaching a larger, more diverse audience than ever before. It has maintained and reaffirmed its commitment to providing reliable news and information to the community for 95 years.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Asbarez's invaluable service to the constituents of the 29th Congressional District over the years. Asbarez has truly succeeded in becoming a trusted information and community source. I ask that all the members join me in congratulating Asbarez's 95 years of establishment and service to the community.

#### JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY NATIONAL DISABILITIES DAY

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues of the many barriers people with disabilities face. They confront barriers to employment, transportation and mobility issues, environmental obstacles, as well as fears, prejudices and misconceptions about their ability to offer valuable service to business, to our communities, and to our nation.

People with disabilities battle a 50 percent nationwide unemployment rate, and those with severe disabilities struggle with a debilitating 70 percent rate of unemployment. I regret that ten years after this Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is still necessary to affirm that people with disabilities can work and want to work. They can enrich the workplace with meaningful skills and talents. And they, like any other Americans, want to contribute their talents to our society.

The key to changing these shocking labor statistics is to encourage employers to focus on the abilities of an individual, rather than an individual's disabilities. Hiring a deserving, qualified individual with a disability is a win-win situation for business and the community. When a person with a disability is employed, the positive benefits reverberate in the community reducing welfare dependency and generating self-sufficiency, independence, stable families, and an increased tax base. Employing people with disabilities helps businesses as well. They have extremely high retention rates, higher than most employees, and there can be tax advantages for businesses that hire employees with disabilities.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program is to be commended and should be supported for providing employment opportunities to Americans with disabilities. The JWOD Program uses the purchasing power of the Fed-

eral Government to buy products and services from participating, community-based nonprofit agencies dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. JWOD completes the cycle of support by enabling persons with disabilities to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence.

The program serves 40,000 people with disabilities nationwide. Last year, it generated approximately \$280 million in wages earned and nearly \$1.5 billion in products sold. In Georgia alone, some 972 people with disabilities earned nearly \$3 million in wages last year as a result of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day program.

The Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI), a community rehabilitation facility in my district, has found particular success with JWOD contracts. Bobby Dodd Institute trainees operate the Veterans Administration Hospital switchboard, the U.S. Attorney Office mailroom, the Decatur Army Reserve Base janitorial service, and even have an expanded regional presence at the Veterans Administration Hospital switchboard in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

As a result of these JWOD contracts, the Bobby Dodd Institute has been able to provide employment opportunities to numerous individuals with disabilities and has helped them to become independent, self-sufficient citizens. I am pleased that these JWOD contracts have had such a positive impact and hope that this is only the beginning. With support from my esteemed colleagues, Javits-Wagner-O'Day contracts can increase, and our whole society will benefit.

This is a program that truly makes a difference in the nation, and in Georgia. I am proud to support it.

#### INTRODUCTION OF END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2004

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the End Racial Profiling Act of 2000, along with additional bipartisan cosponsors. As a product of years of extensive consultation with both the law enforcement and civil rights communities, this legislation represents the most comprehensive federal commitment to healing the rift cause by racial profiling and restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system at-large. The introduction of this legislation is critical step in what should be a nationwide, bipartisan effort to end this divisive practice.

Before September 11, 2001, there was wide agreement among Americans, including President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft, that racial profiling is wrong and should end. Many in the law enforcement community acknowledged that singling out people for heightened scrutiny based on their race, ethnicity or national origin had eroded the trust in law enforcement necessary to appropriately serve and protect our communities. What was true before September 11th is even more true today: racial profiling is inappropriate and ineffective as a law enforcement tactic.

To that end, the Bush administration has promulgated a series of guidelines which are designed to end the practice of racial profiling

by federal law enforcement agencies. However, we must not mistake the issuance of federal guidelines as the final resolution of the racial profiling problem nationwide. The vast majority of racial profiling complaints arise from the routine activities of state and local law enforcement agencies. While these guidelines send a signal, they are not a replacement for the enactment of comprehensive federal anti-profiling legislation.

Racial profiling not only undermines our constitutional rights, it undermines the trust on which law enforcement depends to protect our communities. Since the first introduction of racial profiling legislation in the 105th Congress, the pervasive nature of the practice has gone from anecdote and theory to well documented fact. Data collected from New Jersey, Maryland, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, New York and Massachusetts show beyond a shadow of a doubt that African-Americans and Latinos are being stopped for routine traffic violations far in excess of their share of the population or even the rate at which such populations are accused of criminal conduct. Moreover, a recent Justice Department report found that although African-Americans and Hispanics are more likely to be stopped and searched by law enforcement, they are much less likely to be found in possession of contraband.

This legislation is designed to eliminate racial profiling by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice. First, the bill provides a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by injunctive relief. Second, the receipt of federal law enforcement and other monies that go to state and local governments is conditioned on their adoption of effective policies that prohibit racial profiling. Third, the Justice Department is authorized to provide grants for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Finally, the Attorney General is required to provide periodic reports to assess the nature of any ongoing discriminatory profiling practices.

The vast majority of law enforcement officers discharge their duties professionally and without bias. The value of their service should not be tarnished by a minority of police officials who engage in discriminatory behavior. Evidence obtained from enforcement efforts over the past several years has made it clear that federal action is necessary to address this problem with finality.

Racial profiling is a divisive practice that strikes at the very foundation of our democracy. When law-abiding citizens are treated differently by those who enforce the law simply because of their race, ethnicity, religion or national origin, they are denied the basic respect and equal treatment that is the right of every American. Decades ago, with the passage of sweeping civil rights legislation this country made clear race should not affect the treatment of individual Americans under the law. The practice of using race as a criterion in law enforcement flies in the face of the progress we have made toward racial equality.

With the continuing cooperation of the Administration, we have the opportunity to move bipartisan legislation and end the practice of racial profiling. I hope that we do not miss an historic opportunity to heal the rift cause by racial profiling and restore community confidence in law enforcement.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Black History Month. Black History Month was established in 1926 to pay tribute to the many African-Americans and other people of African descent for their myriad of contributions to human civilization. It is important to remember that during the years of 1619 and 1926 African-Americans received no recognition of their achievements that are inseparable from our lives.

Under President Woodrow Wilson's tutelage, the "Negro History Week" was created to promulgate the African-American achievements through sets of colloquiums, lectures, and exhibitions. It was to give a balanced view of all the people that contributed to the improvements of the Western society. Since then, the government has extended the longevity of the celebration to a month in order to provide a more extensive, global recognition and educational opportunity.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court ruling in the case of Brown versus the Board of Education, which established that every child deserves an education that is equal and substantive. This case changed the way African-American children were educated and was a catalyst that promoted change in the areas of voting, housing, and social justice.

In my home state of Arizona, before the year 1909, Arizona's schools were not segregated. However, during that year, Arizona's General Assembly passed legislation requiring African-American children to attend all black schools and be taught by black educators for the first eight years of their schooling. The first Tucson Unified Arizona District school to engage in segregation was the Paul Lawrence Dunbar School, named after a notable African-American poet. Through the collaboration of zealous teachers and caring parents, the students were able to receive a good education despite the school's inadequacies.

In 1951, Tucson Unified School District freely decided to integrate the school system, and in 1952 the school was renamed John Spring.

The school closed in 1978. To preserve the school, the Dunbar Coalition, a community organization, bought the property from Tucson Unified School District in 1995. The coalition is currently refurbishing the school and transforming it into an African-American Museum and Cultural Center. The school now serves as a venue for community events, and will be having a hearing on May 8th, 2004 to discuss the 50th anniversary of the Brown versus the Board of Education. Over 100 years ago, this building represented the inequities African-American children faced within the education system; it now symbolizes the injustices that are still present in the education system.

Black History Month, along with other celebrations, holidays and laws, has recognized the discrimination, harassment and abuse that blacks have endured. It showcases how far we have progressed, as well as reminds us that our goal in reaching true equality has not yet been completely fulfilled. Black History Month is a tool that educates and teaches the community on the African-American experience and struggle.

During this month, we acknowledge the many national African-American trailblazers such as, W.E.B. Dubois, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, and Hiram Revels and Shirley Chisholm, the first African-Americans elected to the U.S. Congress. Through these individuals and the dedication and hard work of countless others we, as Americans, are more tolerant, patient and accepting of others. We benefit from their legacies not in February alone, but every day.

It is important that minority groups work collectively to ensure civil rights are sustained and each person is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve, regardless of the color of their skin or ethnic background. It is my goal to build strong alliances and coalitions among all minority communities to work collectively toward reaching true equality.

I am very proud to have the opportunity to stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives to help celebrate Black History Month. This is the time when we must commemorate and celebrate the lives of the many African-Americans that have made historic contributions in the areas of academics, politics, science/technology, and social justice. Their struggles and their triumphs are engraved in our everyday life and it is essential that we celebrate all of their accomplishments.

REGARDING THE TRAGIC EVENTS  
TAKING PLACE IN HAITI AND  
INTRODUCING LEGISLATION WITH  
RESPECT TO THE URGENCY OF  
CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Haiti continues to get worse. The attacks on towns and cities are ongoing and more frequent. There are reports of widespread looting and roundups. Haiti is now threatened with chaos.

The ongoing political crisis in Haiti has devastated the country's economy, social fabric, and the livelihoods of its people, leaving Haitians with a ruined economy and barely functioning physical infrastructure, few resources or the basic necessities to maintain life, and an insolvent government.

The path we tread is a difficult one. On the one hand, the disappointing Aristide presidency has reached an impasse, and has not yet shaken off the questions of constitutional legality. On the other hand, the democratic and constitutional principles are the foundations to a free society that we must always treasure. But the issue is not whether or not to support President Aristide. Rather, finding a solution that will bring stability while strengthening the democratic process in Haiti.

To achieve this, a political solution is needed to bring together all those that refuse to make things worse. The rebels are degrading the democratic institutions. For that reason, sacking an elected leader is a recipe for illegitimacy and more bloodshed.

The American people eagerly support a peaceful transition to a representative government in Haiti. Moreover, the Haitian communities in exile are committed to peace and de-

mocracy in their country, and I thank them for their steadfast advocacy for Haiti's interests.

Mr. Speaker, to put an end to violence, the best solution is to involve the international community in ceasing the hostilities, to find respite and protect the population. A peaceful and democratic solution is needed that respects the rule of law and the people's rights.

But, what can we do? I am introducing a resolution that will call for international efforts to end the violence and develop the economic and political institutions necessary to permit Haiti to sustain its population and restore its economic, social, and political process.

This legislation would also call on President Aristide to announce early elections. Thereafter, all the people of Haiti will decide whether or not new political leaders are needed.

It would be structured as follows:

The immediate formation of a United Nations peacekeeping force to help put an end to the violence in Haiti and assist with the subsequent peace, provide for political transition, and establish an economic reconstruction in Haiti.

International support preparing for early presidential elections by establishing a legitimate electoral process.

An international and long-term commitment to aid with the reconstruction of Haiti.

All of the above must be legitimized and implemented by the international community, with the absolute steadfastness from the United States to Haiti's peace, justice, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, as the Western Hemisphere's second-oldest democracy—wrestled from the clutches of European colonialism in 1804 by African slaves—the turbulent events in Haiti are of great concern to me. As a result, I am introducing this legislation with the utmost urgency.

I implore my colleagues to support this resolution.

## IN HONOR OF DON RAY

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, next month, Don Ray, a great servant in Mississippi will be leaving his home and work in my district to serve a higher calling. We will miss him in the South, but the Lord has called him to a church in Michigan, and we are proud and excited he will be responding to this, the highest of callings.

Don and Jeannie Ray have reared a wonderful and loving family: son Craig; daughter Jene with her husband Michael Barranco and their children Mia Julia and Michael; daughter Jerri with her husband Ralph Ross and their children Jennings and Graeme; daughter Julie; and son Kyle with his wife Hilmar and their children Baylor and Carly Marie. Five children and six grandchildren are fitting legacy for anyone, but Don has made an impact in many other ways: the Church, higher education, and the world of finance.

Don has served as Vice President for Development at Belhaven College since November of 1999. Under his leadership, Belhaven has brought in multi-million dollar deals significantly increasing the vitality and stability of the

campus, including funding a new student center. Alumni have been rejuvenated and their positive excitement has led to more and greater financial commitments to the institution. His direction created a vibrant and engaging Homecoming event that has Belhaven alumni eagerly anticipating their annual visit to Jackson, Mississippi.

Belhaven College and Mississippi will miss Don and Jeannie Ray, but the First Congregational Church of Otsego, Michigan will benefit from his years of experience as a pastor and administrator. Before serving in development in higher Christian education including service at Belhaven College, Millsaps College, and Wheaton College, Don served at various churches as a youth pastor and senior pastor.

Don excelled in his previous career of financial planner. He began with Connecticut General Life Insurance in 1964 as an estate planner and business analyst. He moved up the corporate ranks through Northwestern Life Insurance and A.G. Edwards & Sons. He was selected by "Money Magazine" as one of the "200 Best Financial Planners in America" in 1987 and again in 1990. In 1991 he left Financial Review Services, where he served as president of the full services financial planning firm, to begin serving higher Christian education.

For about 25 years, Don Ray has been a Certified Financial Planner and he has a total of 40 years in the financial and estate planning industry. He is a past president and chairman of the board of the Mississippi Chapter of the International Association of Financial Planning, has served as an adjunct faculty member of the College for Financial Planning, and has been a member of both the Registry for Practicing Financial Planners and the Institute for Certified Financial Planners. His training in finance has benefited the Kingdom through gifts to education, churches, and other organizations for many years. He has served on the boards of several Christian organizations including Pioneer Bible Translators, Wheaton Christian Academy High School, Windsor Park Manor Retirement Center, Marble Retreat for Clergy, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Board of Stewards at Galloway United Methodist Church. Don and Jeannie both have served long hours in ministries at Galloway in Jackson and that congregation will certainly miss their gifts and their spirit of servanthood.

I know Belhaven College will be sad to see him go, though they, too, are excited about his new opportunity. I believe Belhaven President Dr. Roger Parrott described Don Ray's service best: "Don was exactly what we needed for this season of Belhaven's growth. He has helped us broaden our base of support among our friends and alumni, crafted together major gifts that have catapulted us forward, and created a platform of professionalism among the team that will carry us forward. Please join us in praying for Don's ministry."

The motto of Belhaven College is "to serve, not to be served." That phrase is the executive summary of Don Ray's life so far, and I believe will continue for many years to come. I hope Congress will join me and Belhaven College, a great Christian liberal arts college in my district, in saluting the service of Don Ray and wishing him the best in his return to the ministry.

## IN RECOGNITION OF SAMUEL ALVIN "SAMMY" BRASHER

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Alvin "Sammy" Brasher—known to many of us as the man with the harmonica.

Sammy Brasher was an inspiration to us all. Born in 1959 with Down syndrome, Sammy was not expected to live a full life. When he was born doctors told his parents he would only have 3 years on Earth. He lived to be 44.

Mr. Speaker, Sammy Brasher is a shining example to us all. Never one to give up easily, Sammy lived his life as a testament to what we all can be, and what we all can achieve. He never let his health slow him down, and kept us smiling with his ever-present musical companion, his harmonica.

Sammy Brasher's memory will always be with us, and so will his life. His smile, his harmonica, and his honesty touched us all. At this difficult time we grieve for his family and remember them in our hearts, and in our prayers.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. For far too long, the pharmaceutical industry has jeopardized patient safety and inflated prescription drug prices by using tax-deductible dollars to underwrite their marketing efforts. The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act would root out this unethical and potentially fraudulent behavior by denying tax deductions to pharmaceutical companies for the gifts they lavish on physicians.

Recently, Congress passed a new Medicare prescription drug benefit that falls far short of giving seniors the relief they need from the high prices of prescription drugs. In fact, the average senior will still pay \$1660 out of pocket per year under the new drug benefit, and a total of \$2080 out of pocket when premiums are included. Unfortunately, the new drug bill does nothing to lower prescription drug prices. In fact, it specifically prevents the government from using the bargaining power of 40 million beneficiaries to negotiate lower drug prices. At the same time, it continues to prohibit seniors from shopping for a better price on the global market, despite broad bipartisan support for allowing them to do so.

Relief is all the more urgent because prescription drug prices are rising for seniors, who now pay an average of \$2,322 for their drugs. Between 1998 and 2003, of the 50 drugs most commonly prescribed to seniors, nearly three-quarters of them increased in price by at least one and one-half times the rate of inflation, and more than half increased by at least three times the rate of inflation. We must do all that we can to lower the price of

prescription drugs and to spend our healthcare dollars wisely.

Yet, drug companies are spending billions of dollars on promotions to entice doctors to prescribe their products, and these dollars are tax deductible. An April 2002 survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that pharmaceutical companies spent \$13 billion in 2001 on incentives for doctors, or more than \$15,000 per doctor. Sixty-one percent of physicians surveyed said they had received gifts from the industry. Drug companies often give out free meals, tickets to the theater, concerts, or sporting events, gifts such as watches and jewelry, and pay for physicians' travel to symposiums or conferences.

These gifts are often attempts by the pharmaceutical industry to induce doctors to prescribe their products even when it is not in the patient's best interest. For example, recently disclosed court documents have revealed that Warner-Lambert encouraged hundreds of doctors to prescribe Neurontin for unapproved uses by inviting them to dinners, weekend trips to resorts, and free tickets to the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. Just a few months ago, the U.S. Attorney's office filed court papers accusing the company of implementing a "marketing scheme that is rife with false statements and fraudulent conduct." The U.S. Attorney concluded that the public interest can only be served when drug promotion is "free of the insidious effects of kickbacks and related financial conflicts of interest," which artificially inflate sales and prices. These gift-giving campaigns contribute to preference and rapid prescribing of new drugs, and decreased prescribing of generics. In other words, tax-deductible dollars contribute to the rising prices of prescription drugs.

These campaigns and inflated prices are particularly outrageous, given the level of profit the drug companies make at the expense of patients. The pharmaceutical industry is consistently the most profitable industry in America, with profit margins in 2001 more than five times the median for fortune 500 companies. Spending on prescription drugs has increased by 20% each year between 1997 and 2001. Between January 1997 and January 2002, the average price of the most commonly used prescription drugs for seniors rose by 27.6%, more than twice the rate of inflation.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) pretended to discourage these improper marketing ploys by issuing conflict-of-interest guidelines in April 2002. After announcing the guidelines with fanfare, they then paid the American Medical Association to "educate" their members on these guidelines—that is, they gave doctors financial incentives to promote ethical guidelines that called for an end to financial incentives! It is obvious that PhRMA is not serious about ending the practice of giving financial incentives to doctors. This bill would create an incentive for drug companies to adhere to their own code of conduct.

Not only are these incentives unethical, but they could even be illegal. The HHS Inspector General issued final guidance to pharmaceutical manufacturers saying that many of these gifts to doctors could be considered illegal kickbacks. By allowing tax deductions for these gifts, current tax law actually encourages this potentially illegal practice. This bill seeks to redress this perverse incentive.

The Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act would help ensure that pharmaceutical companies' behavior matched their rhetoric. This bill eliminates the tax-deduction that pharmaceutical companies currently receive for the gifts they give to physicians. Clever marketing plays that influence physician prescribing habits do little to actually save lives, but do much to increase drug prices and corporate profits. By removing incentives for pharmaceutical companies to lavish gifts of dubious public value on physicians, I hope that pharmaceutical companies will either redirect those funds toward research and development of lifesaving drugs or reduce the prices of prescription drugs for seniors and all Americans. These price reductions will provide much needed relief to America's seniors, who face an ever-increasing burden when paying for their prescriptions, and will stretch scarce Medicare drug benefit dollars further.

I hope that my colleagues will join with me in support of the Prescription Drug Safety and Affordability Act. Prohibiting industry gifts to physicians is a nonpartisan issue that should receive bipartisan support. In fact, the Republican appointed Health and Human Services Inspector General issued guidance restricting the practice, and, next door in Maryland, a Republican state representative has introduced a bill to prohibit these gifts. It is time to stop using taxpayer dollars to fund the industry's marketing campaign to doctors, which puts profits above patients.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF HELEN HORRAL

#### HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect and deepest sympathy that I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Horral who died January 3, 2004, at the age of 87. Helen Horral was a loyal Democrat and a vocal activist who will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. For the last seventeen years, Mrs. Horral dedicated her life to helping working people, the elderly and the struggling underclass through her tireless advocacy for affordable housing, and senior citizen rights.

From 1985 to 1995, Helen helped set low income housing policies by serving on the Duluth Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA). She also served as president of the Authority for one year and helped create solutions for Duluth's low-income housing needs. In addition, Helen was a member of the Single Room Occupancy Commission (SRO) examining issues of homelessness and the use of shelters and food banks. As part of the SRO Commission, she worked to improve living standards and make housing more affordable. While serving on the SRO commission, Helen was a staunch advocate for residents, ensuring that tenants were treated with respect. She came to be known as the "resident caretaker" of the SRO Commission.

Her deep compassion and bold sincerity made her one of the most respected women in the Democratic Farmer Labor party history. Accordingly, Mrs. Horral was one of the first inductees to the DFL party's Women's Hall of Fame, in 2000. Yet she did not set out to be

noticed; for most of her life, her tireless work was done without acknowledgement. Helen was the driving force behind Duluth's political scene, spending countless hours in campaign offices, hosting political dinners, and recruiting other volunteers to engage in the political process. In the end, Helen did all of this not because she was asked, but because she felt a passion to provide service to those less fortunate in our society.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to openly recognize Mrs. Helen Horral's dedication and exceptional service to Minnesota politics and the DFL Party. She has had a tremendous impact on my community and on many communities throughout

Minnesota. As a result of Helen's dedicated work, there has been real improvement in Duluth's low-income housing; there are now more low-income, high quality units in Duluth, and low-income senior citizens are living in the dignity they deserve.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Helen's family; her son Duane Horral; sisters Betty Guinn and Maxine Hoppus; and her five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences and sympathy to those whose lives

Helen touched, which have undoubtedly grown dimmer since her passing. Her contributions will be forever remembered, her presence forever missed, and her memory forever in our hearts.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM 2003-04 MICHIGAN DIVISION 7 STATE CHAMPIONS

#### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Francis High School Varsity Football Team, who recently won the 2003-04 Michigan Division 7 state title. In their heart-stopping championship game played at the Pontiac Silverdome, located in Detroit, Michigan, the St. Francis Gladiators defeated Hudson 28-14.

Led by Head Coach Josh Sellers and assistant coaches Jim Carroll, Pat Cleland, Joe Forlenza, Steve Curtis, Greg Sherwin, Craig Bauer, Scott Doriot, and Mark DeSantis, the 2003-04 Gladiators include seniors Garrett Petterson (Captain, 2), Travis Sivek (Captain, 3), Tyler Schell (5), Sean Currie (6), Kevin Curtis (Captain, 10), Nathan Dunham (20), Brett Millman (30), Ryan Asam (32), Jacob Preston (Captain, 51), Ken Underwood (61), John Bailey (62), Devin Tremp (65), Caleb Richardson (71), and Mike Freundl (86).

The dedication that these players put forth throughout the entire season is one of which the entire district can be proud. Their victory not only brought the team together in great spirit, but their family, friends and community as well.

Once again, on behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I would like to congratulate the coaches and members of the St. Francis High School Varsity Football Team on their achievement. I wish them the best in their future season.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MS. BEULAH "BEAH" RICHARDS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an African American pioneer, actress Ms. Beulah "Beah" Richards.

For the daughter of a Mississippi-born Baptist minister, a good education might have led to a secure job and a middle-class existence. For Beah Richards of Vicksburg, Mississippi, it meant freedom and rejection of life in a town in which she claimed to have suffered racism "every day of my life".

In 1948, Richards graduated from Dillard University, New Orleans, and decided to pursue an acting career. Although she had her first paid acting job at age 36, Richards won three Emmy awards and was nominated for a Tony award and an Academy Award for her 1967 role in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

Her career began at a time when roles for black actors were becoming marginally less stereotypical compared with the pre-war years, when comic characters or minor parts as spear carriers or domestic servants were the norm. Since she was solely an actress, not an entertainer, Richards never achieved star status, and specialized in feisty character roles, usually older than her years, notably indomitable matriarchs.

A move to New York in the early 1950s, to play the role of the grandmother in *Take a Giant Step*, boosted her career. *Take a Giant Step* was a thoughtful drama about race that proliferated in the 1950's. Richards shined in the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, where she understudied the lead on Broadway and played in later productions.

In the social thriller *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), she shared the screen with Sidney Poitier, Hollywood's leading black actor; later that year she did so again in Stanley Kramer's *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, this time playing Poitier's mother, despite being two years his junior. Poitier was to be the first of many screen sons. She later mothered James Earl Jones in *The Great White Hope* (1970), Danny Glover in *And the Children Shall Weep* (1984) and Eriq La Salle as the irascible Dr. Benton in *ER*.

Aside from her acting career, Richards' life was an apex of activism and artistry. Her little known friendships with historical giants Paul Robeson, W.E.B. DuBois and African-American communist leaders William and Louise Patterson helped cultivate her passion for using words to create wisdom.

Reading her fiery poem *A Black Woman Speaks of White Womanhood*, *White Supremacy and Peace* garnered the attention of the FBI under the J. Edgar Hoover administration. The agency's surveillance of her from 1951 to 1972 yielded a 100-page file.

She also had a brief stint as a journalist for New-York based *Freedom Ways* magazine covering the civil rights movement in Alabama in the 1960s.

Richards, who started smoking at age 17, had emphysema and returned to Vicksburg in 2000 to live with family. Richards died Sept. 14, 2000, 10 days after receiving an Emmy award for a guest role on *The Practice*. It was her last role.



Beah Richards pioneered a trail for African Americans in the film community. She was one of the original foot soldiers in the fight for African Americans and women in film and for this she deserves recognition.

COMMENDING CRANSTON HIGH SCHOOL WEST'S COMMUNITY SERVICE

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of Cranston High School West for their incredible devotion to combating hunger in the State of Rhode Island. The Student Council decided this school year to once again participate in "The Feinstein Youth Hunger Brigade Program." This State-wide program encourages school-children to collect non-perishable food items, distribute them to a local agency, and raise awareness of the problem of hunger in their community.

The students of Cranston High School West have decided to collect food items for the Comprehensive Community Action Program for the second consecutive year. This worthy program assists between 500 and 600 families in immediate crisis in the Cranston community. The students at Cranston West raised money at football games, held food drives in their homerooms, and bought non-perishable food items. They even started a newsletter to illustrate their efforts and increase awareness of hunger. Their December donation to the Comprehensive Community Action Program, totaling 2,258 items, nearly doubled the largest donation from the previous year. For their dedication to combating hunger in their own community, I commend the students of Cranston High School West and wish them great success in providing an equally impressive donation in April.

TRIBUTE TO WBGO, JAZZ 88

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a valued institution in my home city of Newark, New Jersey, WBGO Jazz 88, as they celebrate 25 years of service to our community. Founded in a time when there were no New Jersey-based public radio stations, WBGO recognized the opportunity to use public radio as a means of engaging the community and raising cultural awareness. They saw that they could play a role in uniting people who were divided from years of racial and social unrest, as well as helping to rebuild a city that was in great need of revitalization.

Newark Public Radio is one of 12 New Jersey cultural organizations that has been designated a "Major Impact" arts organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. WBGO has been awarded this distinction for each of the past thirteen years. Within public radio, WBGO is regarded as a leader for its ground-breaking work in community and vol-

unteer involvement, special events, and the presentation of jazz (including collaboration with local artists).

WBGO has made it their mission "to champion jazz . . . through radio, other technology, and events." Through education and entertainment, they preserve the rich heritage and cultural achievements of jazz, ensuring its place as an institution of American culture.

Jazz music has been shaped by multiple influences and cultural experiences—a fusion of European and Caribbean elements—but has emerged as a uniquely American art form. Embedded in the African-American experience, jazz tells a story of the American experiment from a new perspective.

WBGO Jazz 88 brings this story to 15 of the 21 counties of New Jersey, all five boroughs of New York, and portions of Connecticut, reaching an estimated 405,000 listeners each and every week.

I salute WBGO for their dedication to the arts, to public radio, to our community, and to jazz. I am proud to have them in my district, and I wish them continued success as they endeavor to bring the truly magical, truly American legacy of jazz to the 21st Century.

HONORING MARJORIE MURPHY ON BEING NAMED THE COHASSET MARINER'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marjorie Murphy, who has recently been named Citizen of the Year by the Cohasset Mariner, a respected newspaper on the South Shore of Boston, MA. Marjie, as she is affectionately known, has made a positive impact on the lives of families throughout the area for 30 years. Originally a first grade teacher, she soon realized her true passion was introducing youngsters to the wonder of a good book. For the next quarter-century, Marjie touched countless lives as a librarian at Deer Hill Elementary School in Cohasset.

With her lifetime of public service in mind, Mr. Speaker, I submit to my colleagues this Cohasset Mariner tribute:

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
(By Mary Ford)

As editor of the Cohasset Mariner, it is my pleasure to announce that Marjorie Murphy is the Citizen of the Year. The mother of three and grandmother of two has touched countless lives through her roughly 25 years as school librarian at Deer Hill.

With eyes that twinkle and an infectious smile, Mrs. Murphy—fondly known as Marjie—can make even the oldest readers among us decide to pick up a children's book, perhaps for the first time in many years.

Mrs. Murphy did not start out as a librarian. She taught the first grade and wasn't so sure being in the library was the right place for her—until she tried it, and then she didn't look back.

She doesn't forget any of the hundreds of children that have passed through the doors to her warm, welcoming library complete with sofas to curl up and read upon.

While nominations were open, a total of 33 different individuals, families or organizations took the time to propose a citizen for

the annual award—detailing his or her contributions to help make this town we all love a better place.

The selection panel consisting of Judy Volungis of Forest Avenue, Betsy Connolly of Lily Pond Lane and Roger Hill of Highland Avenue joined myself, editor Mary Ford, on Sunday to pore over the heartfelt letters of nomination.

Barb Mullin wrote, "With Marjie, children always come first. She's never too busy to help a child select that 'perfect' book or listen to a review of their latest read. It's a pleasure to watch former students drop by—and they frequently do! She never seems to forget a face or a name. Ask any one of them about a teacher who positively influenced them and Marjie's name always pops up."

Claire Cahill said Mrs. Murphy deserved the award for her many years of dedication to the children of Cohasset.

"Her smile, her sparks of enthusiasm, and her unending quest to interest every child in her love of reading has made her a very likely candidate for Citizen of the Year," wrote Karen Murphy.

Dot and Lee Cisneros stated, "Marjie is a giver. She has given and continues to give of her time, her knowledge, her understanding, her devotion to selling the young and the old on her definition of the value of learning."

Judith Collins simply said, "She makes each child feel special."

So we extend our warm congratulations to Mrs. Murphy, who has devoted her life to helping children discover the wonders of reading and the value of a good book.

With this award, the Cohasset Mariner offers recognition for making a difference. In our society too many role models go unrecognized. Too often people today look to the sports, rock or movie stars with envy, when the real hero is the local police officer, firefighter, parent, teacher, church leader, neighbor or government official.

The annual Citizen of the Year Award is our way of taking our hats off to those among us who go that extra mile without asking for anything in return but the intrinsic reward of helping to make Cohasset a better place.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. KENNETH SMITH, RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN SHORE AND BEACH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR 2004

**HON. JIM SAXTON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, those people who dedicate their lives to the protection of the environment are very special and deserve full recognition of their devotion, which is why I'm so pleased to be able to congratulate Ken Smith for being awarded the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2004.

Ken has been a tireless, devoted advocate for not only New Jersey beaches but for beaches throughout the United States. Ken has spent twenty-five years as the "Coastal Advocate," has spent more than seven years as a Vice President and as a Director of the American Shore and Beach Preservation; and is a co-founder of the Alliance for a Living Ocean, formed in response to the awful summer when garbage and other pollution was washing up on the Jersey shore in 1987. The Alliance for a Living Ocean won the Governor's Award for Volunteerism in 1999, and

last but not least, Ken won the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's Morrough P. O'Brien Award in 1999.

Ken has led by example for many years, bringing an awareness to so many people about the importance of working together to preserve not only our beaches and oceans, but the environment and our natural resources as a whole. He has been tireless in his dedication to not only protecting the beaches but educating people on the importance of preservation. Even as he is fighting his own battle with cancer, his amazing drive and devotion to our shores has not wavered in the least.

Congratulations Ken, I look forward to working with you for many more years to come.

#### RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY BLOOD SERVICES

##### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring both attention and admiration to a program that truly has had lifesaving results.

The Community Blood Services, located in Paramus, NJ, within my fifth Congressional District, has working partnerships with many hospitals in the New York metropolitan area to supply cord blood. This cord blood is used in the treatment of leukemia, breast cancer, lymphoma, Hodgkin's Disease, Aplastic Anemia, various other cancers, blood diseases, hereditary/genetic conditions and immune system disorders.

The Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program at Community Blood Services recently and generously announced it will donate one of its umbilical cord units to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, NJ, to assist an uninsured patient in need of a lifesaving transplant.

The patient is suffering from Burkitt's Lymphoma, a non-Hodgkin's disease which is rare in most of the world, but is the most common childhood cancer in Central Africa.

The Elie Katz Umbilical Cord Blood Program was inaugurated in 1997. Since then, it has accepted more than 1600 donated cord blood units. To date, 24 of those units have been used for transplants in children throughout the world. The unit being donated to St. Joseph's will be the twenty-fifth.

Stem cells obtained from placentas and umbilical cords, have been proven to successfully aid in the treatment of many life-threatening diseases. Researchers have found that umbilical cords especially are a rich source of stem cells. This discovery could make the use of embryonic stem cells unnecessary. The cells are easily attainable and can be expanded in vitro, maintained in culture, and induced to differentiate into neural cells. They are a potential source of multipotent stem cells that may serve many therapeutic and biotechnological roles.

In order to identify possible genetic diseases or past illnesses that could jeopardize the patient, when collecting donated cord blood there is a wide-ranging parental history considered. Once the parents agree to the donation, a technician working closely with the delivery team collects the residual blood from the um-

bilical cord after it has been detached from the baby, ensuring no risk to the mother or child. The cord blood unit is then transferred to the processing laboratory at Community Blood Services, where the red blood cells are removed and the remaining stem cells are frozen in liquid nitrogen for long-term storage.

Let me close by portraying just how proud I am that such a worthwhile organization is located within my community. It is an honor for me today to bring attention to Community Blood Services on the floor of the House. We thank you for everything that you do.

#### RECOGNIZING PUTNAM COUNTY, NEW YORK

##### HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress who represents all of Putnam County, NY, I rise today to recognize Putnam County leaders, groups, and residents for their remarkable achievement in being recognized nationwide as one of eight Preserve America communities.

The new Preserve America initiative was developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, as well as the U.S. Departments of Interior and Commerce. Putnam County recently received a Preserve America Award at a White House ceremony hosted by First Lady Laura Bush.

Located along the Hudson River, many of Putnam County's towns and villages were instrumental to trade and commerce throughout our nation's history. Putnam County has further demonstrated its ability to make history by becoming one of the first communities in our country to apply for and receive this special designation as a Preserve America Community. Putnam County's proactive spirit has been duly rewarded with this prestigious recognition.

County government has partnered with local municipalities, historic societies, and non-profit organizations to develop initiatives and plans to protect historic property for economic development and community revitalization. These efforts have helped Putnam County emerge as a national leader in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage.

I rise to commend Putnam County legislator Vincent Tamagna's dedicated efforts in spearheading the county's application efforts. I also rise to thank the Hudson River Valley Institute for its active support of Putnam County. Also deserving recognition and congratulations are Putnam County Executive Robert Bondi; the Putnam County legislature; Putnam County Historical Society; Putnam County Tourist Promotion Agency; Foundry School Museum; and the county's Historic Advisory Preservation Commission and its Office of the County Historian and County Archives.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud and honored to represent the people of Putnam County. They deserve this special designation for their steadfast commitment to preserving a uniquely historic past while planning for a bright and promising future.

#### ONE MORE CHEER FOR THE CAT IN THE HAT

##### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker:

I rise today as many have before, To honor Theodor Seuss Geisel for his contributions galore!

The literary world will never be the same,  
After being introduced to Dr. Seuss' name  
We remember the dreamer, the artist, the man,  
Who taught us about life, green eggs and ham  
For 60 years he captivated us with stories for all to know,  
And left a legacy of cherished books about the places we'd go

He may not have been a real doctor—but  
boredom he cured,  
With rhythm and rhyme and colorful words,  
When our troops needed morale during World War II,  
He was too old to serve but did what he could do,

With satire and imagery he inspired platoons  
With silly and potent political cartoons!

We celebrate today, a man who dreamed,  
And created for all an unending stream  
Of insights and poems, books and tales,  
Of red fish, blue fish and others with scales  
He gave us the Lorax to speak for the trees,  
A little creature to save saplings from corporate greed

And we cannot forget the Grinch with a heart so cold,  
Or the innocence of a child, "Who," touched his soul

His 46 books weren't meant to be silly,  
Barbaloots were for grown-ups and leaders of cities,

Ahhh—So many stories, yet so little time,  
To commend this man for his gift of rhyme

So when the sun does not shine,  
When it is too wet to play,  
When you are sitting in your house,  
On a cold, cold, wet day

Always remember in December or September,  
The spell of wonder,  
Dr. Seuss put us under.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION BOARD OF ADVISORS APPOINTMENTS

##### HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding individuals who have dedicated their lives to encouraging all Americans to participate in our government through the voting process. Under the authority granted to me by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), I have appointed two election experts, Joseph F. Crangle of Buffalo, NY and Hilary O. Shelton of Washington, DC, to serve as national voting procedure advisors to continue improving the election process in the wake of the 2000 elections.

HAVA established a four-person body called the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). I

am appointing Mr. Crangle and Mr. Shelton to the Board of Advisors, which will serve essentially as the EAC's board of directors. The board consists of 37 members representing a range of groups involved in elections.

I am very confident that with their decades of election experience and dedication to the voting process, Joseph Crangle and Hilary Shelton will have a tremendous impact on the EAC. It is my hope that they and the other 35 members of the board will examine the many issues involved in administering fair and accurate elections in this country, including the concerns that have been raised regarding the security and reliability of electronic voting systems.

I am grateful for the advice of my colleague from New York, Representative CHARLIE RANGEL, who informed me about Mr. Crangle's decades of experience and dedication to the election process. It is truly an honor for me to appoint him for this position.

Joseph Crangle served as chairman of the Erie County Democratic Party from 1965 to 1988; as chair of the New York State Democratic Party from 1971 to 1974; as a delegate to every Democratic National Committee from 1968 to 1992; and as a member of the Democratic National Committee's Executive Committee from 1972 to 1988. Mr. Crangle is regarded as one of the leading experts in the country on voter registration and "get-out-the-vote" programs. He is an attorney for the law firm of Colucci and Gallaher, P.C. in Buffalo, NY.

Hilary Shelton's commitment to improving our election system was evident during the development of the Help America Vote Act. He worked tirelessly during the entire legislative process to ensure that this bill became law.

Mr. Shelton is the Director of the Washington Bureau of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Prior to working for the NAACP, he was the Federal Liaison Assistant Director of the Government Affairs Department of The United Negro College Fund. In addition, he worked for the 9.5 million member United Methodist Church advocating on numerous public policy issues including civil rights, access to higher education, and voting rights. He serves on the national boards of directors for the Center for Democratic Renewal, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and the U.S. Census Advisory Board.

Members of the Board of Advisors serve a 2-year term in a strictly advisory capacity; they have no rule-making authority. Once all the appointments have been made and the EAC is fully functional, the board will begin its duties.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr. Crangle and Mr. Shelton as they begin their positions on the Board of Advisors. They are truly two of the best advocates in the country for our election process. I am confident that future generations of voters will be inspired to make their voices heard, because of the contributions of these two remarkable Americans.

#### HONORING EAT CAPTAIN ERIC GENNOTTE

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor European Air Transport (EAT) Captain Eric Gennotte, a civilian volunteer pilot, for his remarkable heroism while flying in Iraq. Captain Gennotte demonstrated incredible valor on Saturday, November 22, 2003, when he landed his Airbus 300 after it was hit by multiple surface-to-air rockets upon take off from Baghdad Airport.

At the time of the incident, Captain Gennotte was returning to a DHL Global Delivery mail distribution center in Europe after delivering mail to U.S. soldiers in Baghdad. Shortly after taking off on November 22, Captain Gennotte's cargo and crew were struck by hostile rocket fire causing the complete loss of hydraulic power to the aircraft. Losing "stick control" rendered the aircraft non-navigable under normal circumstances. In a display of immense skill and bravery, Captain Gennotte regained control of the aircraft using the plane's engines as rudders to stabilize and turn the weakened vessel. In order to turn right, Captain Gennotte fired the left engine; to turn left he fired the right engine. After dodging continued missile attacks with failed equipment, Captain Gennotte successfully landed the burning plane with nothing but the two engines, completing a feat that had never before been accomplished in EAT piloting history. Captain Gennotte is already in line to receive a safety award from the Secretary General of the Belgian Cockpit Association.

Because of Captain Gennotte's deft skill, his cargo and the crew, which included a British flight engineer and another Belgian pilot, lived through the assault. As peacekeepers continue to come under attack, it is particularly uplifting to hear tales of bravery like that of Captain Gennotte. Heroic stories like this one are prime examples that the best way to combat cowardly acts of terror is to share our own heroic responses to it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to EAT Captain Eric Gennotte. Honorable and gallant allies like him risk their lives to help others. I wish him and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of our Nation's fearless friends.

#### HONORING MR. JOHN SMITH

#### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to express my appreciation to John R. Smith for his service to the Dayton community and his commitment to the Ohio Postal Workers Union.

John R. Smith is being honored by the Ohio Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO for a lifetime of service to his home community of Dayton, Ohio as well as his union, the American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

Mr. Smith has held numerous local, state, and national positions in the American Postal

Workers Union and its predecessor unions since he began to work for the U. S. Postal Service in 1950. Mr. Smith currently serves as the National APWU Retirees Director, a position he has held since his appointment in 1993. He served as the President of the Dayton Area Local APWU from 1981-1993, Director of the APWU National Mail Handlers from 1970-1980 and President of the Dayton National Postal Union from 1964-1970.

John Smith has been active in the community, serving on numerous boards and commissions, such as the Dayton Metropolitan Housing Authority Board, Dayton Catholic Elementary School Board, First Dayton Little League Board and the United Way at Work Committee. He is also a Deacon at Corinthian Baptist Church, a member of the Board of Christian Education, and a Sunday school teacher.

Mr. Smith is a devoted family man, having been married to his wife Ida for over 50 years. They have three children, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The local union office in Dayton, Ohio was renamed the John R. Smith APWU office, and the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky have named their annual training school the John R. Smith Leadership School in honor of Mr. Smith's dedication to the American Postal Workers Union.

I join the Ohio Postal Workers Union and the Dayton community in thanking Mr. Smith for his service.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month and to take this opportunity to honor the African American citizens whom I represent. Our state is home to a rich tradition of African American leaders whose educational, economic and political achievements have enriched North Carolina and our Nation.

Hard work and perseverance are traditions of the African American community. During a time when hatred and bigotry triumphed over our Nation's loving and generous spirit, African American leaders worked diligently to ensure and enhance the quality of life for future generations of both blacks and whites.

Particularly important to our quality of life in North Carolina has been the African American community's persistent commitment to education. This is demonstrated in the work of acclaimed educator Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown who founded the Alice Freeman Palmer Memorial Institute. Founded in 1902, the Institute served as an African American preparatory school in Guilford County until 1971.

This commitment remains strong among those who are seated at the helm of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the 13th and neighboring Congressional Districts. Dr. Dianne Boardley Suber of St. Augustine's College and Dr. James Renick of North Carolina A&T State University are leaders of thriving higher education institutions. Both serve on the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs. These leaders, along with Dr.

Johnnetta B. Cole of Bennett College for Women are extraordinary examples of those who continue the legacy of producing young scholars who will contribute to the progress of our state and nation.

Evidence of this progress is apparent in the accomplishments of two graduates from NC A&T, former Chief Justice Henry Frye, the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court of North Carolina, as well as Dr. Ronald Erwin McNair, Physicist and Astronaut who lost his life in the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster in January 1986.

The contributions of the African American community in North Carolina are also demonstrated in the unique furniture designs and skills of artisan Thomas Day of Caswell County whose work continues to influence the industry.

Recently a good friend of mine, John Wesley Winters, Sr. passed away. Mr. Winters was a leader in North Carolina, his contributions as a businessman, civil rights leader and political leader leaves a powerful legacy. Many African American families own their own homes in Raleigh because of Mr. Winters' work.

My District includes the Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina. Four brave young men, Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, David L. Richmond and Ezell Blair, Jr. (now known as Jibreel Khazan) took a firm stand by sitting down at a "white only" Woolworth lunch counter. This new museum helps us reflect every day on how their strength and determination, even in the face of threats, jolted a burgeoning civil rights movement that forever changed the American cultural landscape. We are a better Nation, we are better human beings, because of their courage.

Black History Month reminds us of these and other achievements. We will never forget the important contributions that African Americans have made and will continue to our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. AUBREY BOOZER, JR.

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD, two tributes to Mr. Aubrey Boozer, Jr., of Austin, Texas, who passed on December 23, 2003. While I did not personally know Mr. Boozer, his son, Lyndon K. Boozer, has been a great friend since I arrived in Washington almost twelve years ago. Lyndon often spoke of his father and the profound impact that he had on his life. Two tributes follow, which I believe capture the true essence of a life well lived. The first is the eulogy which Lyndon delivered at the memorial service for his dad, and, the second is the obituary which appeared in the Austin American Statesman.

#### MY DAD

(By Lyndon K. Boozer, December 30, 2003.)

"As you know, my Dad recently moved to DC. About a month ago, he was over for Thanksgiving Dinner.

After getting everyone's attention—he commanded it—he told this story he had heard from LBJ Ranch foreman Dale Malechek about a preacher at a Bar B Que.

Now I won't tell this story as well as Dad because he was a master storyteller—one of the best. But it seems the Reverend was thanking the Lord for the Blessings and went on and on and on. Finally, after about 10 minutes, Dale turns over to Dad and says: "You reckon the Bar B Que ain't done yet?"

That was the last story I remember him tell, and I remember it like yesterday. Dad liked to keep things simple. And short. So we won't keep you from your Bar B Que today, but I just wanted to share a few of my favorite things about Dad because he had 78 full years of life.

He liked Westerns, Cowboys and old War movies, maybe because it reminded him of his days in the Navy. WW II he used to call it, the only "good" war.

He loved to cook—and he was a master in the kitchen. Laura and I used to wake up on Sunday mornings to the wafting aroma of bacon and eggs, biscuits and cream gravy. For most of his adult life, we remember him as a big, authoritative man. He was strong willed and stubborn which meant it was "his way or the high way." His way was usually right.

Even though his body gave out this year, his mind and spirit were still tough as nails. He organized his move to Washington like he did everything else, with precision and fortitude. He didn't look back. His goodbyes were short. I suspect it was because he knew he'd be back soon.

Beneath his tough exterior and grumpy ways was a kind heart that overshadowed his modest outward appearance. He didn't care about much except his family and his close friends whom he tested on a regular basis. He loved his dogs whom he entrusted to Laura. They are alive and well.

He loved my Mother deeply, and she was his axis of life. A close relative said, "Well, you know why he died before Christmas? He wanted to spend it with your Mom." There's some truth to that...

They were so different but were there for each other through it all—Houston where they met, New York City where they loved, Washington, DC where they grew, Mexico City where they enjoyed and finally Austin, Texas where they settled down and raised a family.

And after Mom died in 1998, he visited this very grave site almost every week until his health was too poor. Our friends here at Cook Walden remember, especially Evelyn Williams.

He never stopped wanting the best for Laura and me. And he was proud of us I'm told. He wouldn't say so to us but we knew it because everyone always said so.

He was truly a Classic, a stand up guy, funny and honest and a straight shooter. Independent, And a proud Democrat. He didn't mince words and in this day of political correctness, he was a refreshing opinion.

His values were ones to live by, and we will. We miss you Dad, and will think of you every day. While we cannot cheat father time, the past lives within us and is eternal in our hearts and minds. You will always be remembered.

We love you, Pops.

[From the Austin American Statesman, December 28, 2004, Obituary.]

AUBREY BOOZER, JR.

Aubrey Boozer, Jr. was born in Clint, Texas. He was reared in Houston, Texas, having attended John Reagan High School, graduating in 1942. He immediately volunteered for military service. After serving his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he enrolled at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas, in 1946 where he was President of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and a varsity basketball player. He earned a

Bachelor of Science degree and graduated in 1951.

Aubrey held various positions in government service, including a post at the United Nations in New York City, with the Civil Service Commission, then with the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., and the Office of Economic Opportunity with the Johnson Administration. He and his wife, Yolanda, who was on the staff of President Lyndon B. Johnson, lived in Washington, D.C. during the 60s. He subsequently served in the U.S. Foreign Service at posts in the U.S. Embassy, Mexico City, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and wartime Saigon, South Vietnam, where he was Special Assistant to the Ambassador. He was awarded a commendation from the U.S. Army for "Outstanding Work and Cooperation with All Government Agencies and the Vietnamese Government for Community Relations in the City of Saigon."

After service to his country for the second time in Vietnam, he operated restaurants in Austin, Waco, Temple and College Station, Texas, for the Monterey House Mexican Foods, Inc. He was also Vice President of Operations for the company in Houston, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Yolanda Boozer; and by his Mother and Father. He had no brothers or sisters. Survivors are Lyndon, a son who resides in Washington, D.C.; a daughter, Laura of San Francisco, California; and two grandchildren, Jordan and Kyle. He is also survived by cousins, JoAnn Harris, Charles Hale, Alec Hale Reid, and Amy; and nieces, Diane VanHootegeem, Christine Rayburn and Rosalind Johansson, all of whom he cared for very much.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor the life of Mr. Aubrey Boozer. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing condolences to this fine family.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE "EXTENDED DEPLOYMENT PAY INCREASE ACT OF 2004"

#### HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Extended Deployment Pay Increase Act of 2004." I believe this legislation provides critical financial support to our men and women in uniform.

All of us are familiar with the change in policy that is requiring tens of thousands of National Guard, Reservists, and active duty troops in Iraq and surrounding countries to extend their active duty to 12 months.

These longer deployments cause additional financial and emotional stresses on our military, and their families. For example, it has been reported that more than one-third of the Reservists and National Guard members suffer cuts in pay when called to active duty. So while it may be reasonable to expect members of the National Guard and Reserves to forgo peacetime salaries for six months to serve on active duty thousands of miles away from home, or to expect private employers to continue to pay part of their salaries for a few months, these stopgap measures are limited. The financial strain is especially acute for those who are self-employed—especially those who are called up on short notice and those who have made business arrangements

for a six month absence, only to be notified later that their deployment will be extended for a full year.

There are similar stresses on career military personnel that are required to serve extended deployments of 12 months on active duty. While 6 months may be more manageable for a family to make temporary arrangements regarding covering day care and usual family responsibilities, deployments of 12 months require a more permanent solution. At a minimum, the normal family life is disrupted. Parents are forced to be away from their children for prolonged periods of time, and the parent that is left behind must fill the role of both parents. As a result, additional social services, or additional day care services, are often needed—at additional financial expense.

This bill would increase individual pay by \$1000 per month for active duty military, Reservists, and National Guard members who are deployed away from home for more than 6 months. The increase would apply to each month of active duty in excess of 6 months.

Many of these individuals and their families will be suffering hardship well in excess of \$1000 per month. The least we can do is attempt to offset the financial hardship imposed on these families. If one third of 150,000 troops in Iraq are eligible for extended deployment pay in any month; the cost would be \$50 million a month or \$600 million per year. This amounts to less than one-half of one percent of the total cost of the war to date.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this effort to aid the military men and women who are honorably serving our country.

#### CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, each February our Nation celebrates Black History Month. African-Americans have a rich and deep history, and many individuals should be recognized. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision of Brown versus the Board of Education, and it is my pleasure to speak about a very special woman who blazed a trail in completing her education.

While the Supreme Court decision allowed for equal access and opportunity to education for African-Americans, long before this decision was handed down, Mary Eliza Mahoney, was the first African-American registered nurse, graduating from the New England Hospital for Women and Children Training School for Nurses in 1879.

Mary Eliza Mahoney was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts in 1845. At the age of 33, Ms. Mahoney was admitted as a student into the hospital's nursing program, which had been established by Dr. Marie Zakrewska, notably, one of the first women doctors in the United States.

Ms. Mahoney completed a strenuous and rigorous 16-month program, becoming one of only three people to actually complete the program.

In 1896, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Mahoney became one of the first African-American mem-

bers of the American Nurses Association (ANA). In 1908, she co-founded the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, an organization working toward complete integration of Black Nurses in the ANA. Additionally, Mahoney participated in the campaign for woman suffrage and in 1921, was one of the first women in line to vote after the ratification of the nineteenth amendment.

Ms. Mahoney spent her life caring for the sick until her death on January 4, 1926. In 1993, Ms. Mahoney was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame.

The indomitable courage of this African-American woman has set an example for equality, dignity and respect for African-Americans in nursing, as well as women's rights. I urge all of my colleagues to reflect on all the great African-American individuals who helped shape this great Nation during Black History Month.

#### MOURNING THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF PRESIDENT BORIS TRAJKOVSKI OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

#### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the untimely death of President Boris Trajkovski of the Republic of Macedonia. As many of my colleagues have heard, President Trajkovski was killed this morning in a plane crash while traveling to Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Trajkovski was born in Strumica, Macedonia on June 25, 1956. He graduated with a degree in law from the University of St. Cyril and Methodius in 1980. He was an ordained Methodist minister and President of the Church Council of the United Methodist Church.

In 1998, he was appointed to the post of Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs. During his time as Deputy-Minister, he predicted the rise of ethnic tensions in Macedonia due to the crisis in Kosovo. He was right to criticize NATO's lack of help in that crisis. During much of the fighting in the Balkans, Macedonia allowed NATO to use Macedonian territory. During Macedonia's ethnic crisis, NATO was sorely lacking in assistance.

In 1999 he was inaugurated as President of the Republic of Macedonia. During his term as president, he faced near-civil war in his country. Ethnic divisions threatened to tear his country apart. President Trajkovski, however, worked with all ethnic groups to forge a solution. Despite criticism that he was too lenient on minority groups, he pressed for peace and facilitated a peace deal.

In addition to forging peace in his country, Mr. Trajkovski worked to improve Macedonia's standing on the world stage. Under his leadership, Macedonia was one of the first countries to publicly support Operation Iraqi Freedom and to commit troops to the effort. Mr. Trajkovski was a tireless advocate for religious tolerance, religious freedom, and conflict resolution.

Mr. Trajkovski's work also focused on improving the lives of all Macedonians. A strong believer in free markets and the importance of

international economic co-operation, Mr. Trajkovski died while on his way to an international investors meeting that would undoubtedly have helped the development and future prosperity of Macedonia.

The death of President Trajkovski is a tragedy. Macedonia has lost a true leader. The international community has lost a strong voice for peace and co-operation. On the passing of President Trajkovski, Kerri Houston, Vice President of Policy for Frontiers of Freedom noted, "President Trajkovski was a courageous leader who sought security, economic progress, and a common national identity for the Macedonian people." A truer statement was never uttered.

Mr. Trajkovski leaves behind a wife, Vilma, and two children Sara and Stefan. I offer my sympathies to his family and the families of the other victims of this terrible accident.

#### RECOGNITION OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY

#### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony campaigned endlessly for women's rights to equality and freedom. Her protecting legacy has taught many American women how to fight injustice, and this lesson includes the unborn. For Anthony, the rights of women and the rights of unborn children are the same.

Susan B. Anthony is best known for her leading role in the women's suffrage movement, but few realize that she was also a strong pro-life activist. February marks the 184th year following her birth, and there could hardly be a more fitting commemoration than the passage of the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. This Act would hold individuals accountable for harming a life when, in the act of committing a federal crime, an unborn child is killed or injured. Murder must not go unrecognized and unpunished. The law should recognize two victims and two distinct tragedies.

After a brutal beating, a New York mother delivered two stillborn twins. The law saw one assault victim, but was blind to the two lives lost. This horrible crime and numerous others are going unpunished; Congress must act to stop this injustice.

The key to understanding abortion lies in the recognition of a human life wherever it exists. We must follow Susan B. Anthony's example and recognize the lives of unborn children. I encourage all Members of Congress to support our unborn children and pass the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA BORIS TRAJKOVSKI

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my condolences upon hearing the news of the death of Boris Trajkovski,

the President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. President Trajkovski lost his life in a plane crash this morning in the mountainous region of southern Bosnia. I would like to offer my most sincere condolences to the wife, son, and daughter of President Trajkovski for their tragic and untimely loss as well as to all of the families and friends of the two pilots and six aides on board the flight who also perished in the crash. Furthermore, I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the people of Macedonia who have today lost a truly forward-looking and unifying leader.

Boris Trajkovski, who served as President of Macedonia since 1999, will be remembered in the international community for his role as a peacemaker and a moderate in a region troubled by ethnic tensions and conflicts. These tensions and conflicts have at times been so severe as to threaten the stability and unity of Macedonia. President Trajkovski's accomplishments as a peacemaker are many and premised on his will to work together with all ethnic groups. Included among his accomplishments to this end is his role in a NATO-brokered peace agreement in 2001 that ended months of armed clashes between Macedonia's Slavic-speaking Orthodox Christians and ethnic Albanian minority. This agreement played an integral role in warding off a full-scale civil war in the country.

Since gaining its independence, Macedonia has been a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of which I am proud to serve as Vice President. Thus I have followed closely the developments in Macedonia and have observed first hand the efforts made by Macedonia under the leadership of President Trajkovski to secure a peaceful nation and to move the country forward to a bright future. Just this past Wednesday, President Trajkovski signed Macedonia's formal application to join the European Union, a move that would further benefit the people of Macedonia in their attempts to cement democracy and prosperity in their nation.

It is my hope that the loss of President Trajkovski does not signify a loss in any degree of the strong unifying efforts in which he so strongly believed and for which he fought. As well as offering my condolences to the people of Macedonia in their time of grief, I also want to take this opportunity to wish them every success in overcoming this tragedy and continuing on the path of peace and prosperity.

It is my hope that the greatest legacy left by the loss of President Trajkovski is the ongoing effort to see across ethnic divisions and to secure a peaceful and unified Macedonia in an equally peaceful and unified Europe.

IN HONOR OF RAUL VARGAS

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a friend and an educator, Mr. Raul Vargas. For more than 32 years Raul has guided young men and women along the path of academic excellence and future leadership success. Through his years of

effort, more than 5,600 college undergraduate and graduate students from across the country have received scholarships totaling \$10.3 million during their time at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. How fitting that on the evening of February 27, 2004, the USC Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA), of which he is a founding member, will honor Raul Vargas for his lifetime commitment to education and inspirational leadership at USC.

The son of Felipe Vargas and Helena Sotelo, Raul Vargas was born on May 21, 1939, in Lordsburg, New Mexico. Raul lost his father at the tender age of four and when his mother married Alfredo Mejia, the family moved to Miami, Arizona. Growing up in this small mining town, Raul and his siblings Felipa, Alfredo, Alfonso, Elvia, and Elisa learned a strong work ethic and core values from their parents.

Raul is a proud alumnus of Miami High School and Arizona State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1961. That same year, Raul enlisted in the United States Army where he served until 1964.

Raul's service to his country evolved into a lifetime of service in the classroom. After completing his teaching credential at Arizona State University in 1966, Raul went on to teach Spanish in the Ontario School District in California. After five years of teaching, he resumed his studies at California State University, Los Angeles as a student in the Master's in Administration program. From there he continued his doctoral work in public policy at the University of Southern California. In January 1972, Raul joined the USC family as Executive Director of the Office for Mexican American Programs at the University of Southern California.

Raul has always been a hard worker and driven to succeed. Fortunately, he had the good sense to pause for a moment and recognize that the best thing in his life stood before him: Marcia Wyse. Raul and Marcia married in December of 1966. Together they have become an indivisible and indispensable team, blessed with a true partnership, friendship and love. Raul and Marcia are now the proud parents of two children, Tracie and Cesar, and one grandchild, Alexandra. And Marcia, in her own right, is one of our country's preeminent and forceful voices advocating for America's English-language learners and the value of bilingual education.

Raul's career has always combined his passion for students with his commitment to innovation as an administrator. So it was that in 1974, Raul and eight USC alumni founded the USC Mexican American Alumni Association with a bold, but untested vision to build a mighty anchor and support for Latino college enrollment at the University. Their success has surpassed all expectations. Raul and the MAAA recently completed the association's Endowment Fund Campaign which increased its endowment to \$2.1 million to assist future generations of Latino college students. Marcia will tell you that Raul takes great pride and honor in making a prestigious university like USC more accessible to Latino students.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate Raul's many accomplishments, it is with great admiration and pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting this exceptional man and

brother to many. America, the University of Southern California, and America's future leaders have certainly gotten the better end of the bargain when the doors of education and public service opened to Raul Vargas. Fight on, my friend!

## INTRODUCTION OF THE RESIDUAL RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION ACT

**HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce important legislation that seeks to undo—in some small measure—an injustice done to thousands of American workers in the years following the Manhattan Project.

Beginning in the 1940s, throughout the United States, the government secretly contracted with hundreds of private-sector factories and laboratories to develop, test, and produce atomic weapons. For well over a decade, many of these facilities processed enormous amounts of radioactive materials such as thorium, uranium and radium. Yet, when the government contracts expired in the 1950s, few of these facilities were properly decontaminated.

In 2000, Congress saw fit to establish a reparations program for workers who developed diseases because of their work on our nation's atomic weapons program. Under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA), workers could receive a one-time payment of \$150,000 and medical coverage for expenses associated with the treatment of diseases contracted due to this exposure. One major shortcoming of the program is its failure to compensate individuals made sick from their work in former atomic weapons plants—where the walls and floors were permeated with radioactive residue—for decades following the end of Cold War era production.

In fact, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health released a report in the fall that found “significant” residual radioactive contamination existed in many of the former contractor sites well into the 1970s, 80s and beyond. Today, we see the legacy of this failure to properly decontaminate. Employees who, unbeknownst to them, worked in facilities with significant residual contamination, have contracted or succumbed to radiation-related cancers or disease.

The enactment of the EEOICPA was recognition that the federal government bore a responsibility to workers who were made sick and even died because of the work they did on the nation's atomic program. It is long since past the time for our government to take responsibility for its role in allowing these Cold War era facilities to remain dangerously contaminated and place workers needlessly at risk.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I am introducing today with my colleague, Mr. Quinn, the Residual Radioactive Contamination Compensation Act (RRCCA), would extend eligibility for the EEOICP to workers who were employed at facilities where NIOSH has found potential for significant radioactive contamination. For instance, of the fourteen facilities in and around



my congressional district, NIOSH found that five of the sites had potential for significant contamination well into the 1990s and beyond. At the same time, NIOSH reported that it could not make a determination at three of the sites without additional information. For this reason, the bill I am introducing would require NIOSH to update its report on an annual basis to include new information when it becomes available.

Mr. Speaker, the RRCCA seeks to open the door of eligibility for valid claims. At the same time, passage of this bill will mean very little if the chronic problems that have plagued this program are not addressed. As you may know, the implementation of this important program has been plagued by bureaucratic red tape. For far too many claimants, it's a waiting game. I know of dozens of constituents whose work and health history leave no doubt about eligibility but are still waiting to have their records reviewed. In those rare instances where the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has managed to evaluate claims, the approval rate has been abysmal.

Moreover, the Department of Health and Human Services has failed to issue one of the key regulations required by the law nearly 3½ years since the law was signed. The "Special Exposure Cohort" regulation is needed to address situations where the records needed to estimate radiation dose are not available, where the workers were not monitored, or the monitoring data is unreliable or altered. We note, for example, that NIOSH was unable to produce individual monitoring records for workers at Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna, New York, where uranium billets were rolled into rods used as fuel in the government's plutonium reactors during the years 1949–1952. Just this week, a group of 25 Bethlehem Steel workers boarded a bus for Cleveland, to stage a protest outside of the Northeast Regional Headquarters of the program. These workers and others have been denied the right to petition for eligibility in the Special Exposure Cohort because the Department of Health and Human Services has failed to issue its regulations in a timely manner. Further delay is simply inexcusable.

As I have said, over and over again, this is an aging and ill population. Time is of the essence. Congress must act to ensure that the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program is properly administered.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Residual Radioactive Contamination Compensation Act to help our constituents.

#### SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2004, I supported H.R. 3783, legislation to provide an extension of the transportation programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

The fact that Congress had to approve yet another temporary extension of the Highway Trust Fund programs clearly shows the leadership of this Congress has misplaced priorities.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), legislation which is the product of the hard and tireless work of two well respected members of the House, Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR. I call on my colleagues to enact this legislation at the full authorized level of \$375 billion through 2009.

Their legislation is being held hostage by ideological interests in the White House and House leadership who are apparently blind to the number one issue in my community of Houston, Texas: mobility.

While transportation reauthorization is stalled in Congress, residents in my community are idling away an average of 37 hours and 60 gallons of gas this year in congested traffic. We lose \$2.1 billion, every year, in productivity and fuel, and congestion has been getting worse. These figures are according to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2003 Urban Mobility Report.

Texas mobility is also impacted severely by the fact that 10 cents of every dollar we pay in gasoline taxes goes to other states. I strongly believe that Texas deserves at least 95 percent of Texas gas tax revenue for Texas transportation projects and have co-sponsored legislation, H.R. 2208, to that effect. But it will be much, much easier to increase our slice of the pie and get to that 95 percent level, if we fully fund H.R. 3550 and have a larger, total pie.

The gasoline tax funds our public highways by tapping revenue from those who benefit from them—motorists and truckers. Every cent we pay at the pump to the federal government goes to transportation. How else should we pay for our unavoidable road, bridge, and transit construction? The current gasoline user fee method is simpler than having to stop every 5 miles or so and dig around for change in our car seats to pay a highway toll.

Unless we can fully fund H.R. 3550, our constituents will be stopping to pay a lot more tolls in the future. The amount of funding generated by the static \$0.18 per gallon federal gasoline tax has significantly eroded over the last several years due to inflation. To allow for necessary highway construction the federal gas tax should be indexed to inflation, as proposed by my respected colleagues Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR.

It is frustrating to be confined by inadequate transportation funding during tough economic times because infrastructure investment brings major employment and development benefits. Each billion spent on infrastructure creates 47,500 American jobs, with 3.5 million jobs to be generated and sustained through 2009 under H.R. 3550, including over 200,000 jobs in Texas.

Inadequate transportation investment leads to lost hours spent in traffic, lost job opportunities, and lost lives from unsafe road conditions. I call on my colleagues to fully fund H.R. 3550 at the bipartisan level of \$375 billion.

RECOGNITION OF MRS. GINA CAYNE IN APPRECIATION FOR HER EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE VICTIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great privilege that I have the opportunity to recognize an outstanding woman, Mrs. Gina Cayne, for her distinguished efforts creating the Jason David Cayne Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the families of deceased spouses.

Mrs. Cayne spent her youth in Marlboro, New Jersey where she met her childhood sweetheart and future husband, Mr. Jason David Cayne. In 1992, Jason and Gina wed, and Jason began his career trading Municipal Bonds. His success led him to a partnership with the firm of Cantor Fitzgerald in 1995. Six years later, during the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, Jason's life came to a tragic end. He was survived by his wife and three children.

However, in the wake of tragedy, the community reached out to Gina, and provided for her every need while she grieved for her beloved husband. After this difficult period ended, Gina was so thankful of the help of the community that she decided to return the favor, and try to bestow the same generosity to other victims of tragedy that results in the loss of a spouse.

Gina created the Jason David Cayne foundation in October of 2003 to assist with the immediate burden that families face when losing a spouse. In addition to financial assistance, the foundation provides help with organizing finances, and finding counseling that is required from the loss of a husband or wife.

Mr. Speaker, for overcoming the overwhelming loss of her husband, and in the wake of such tragedy, creating a foundation to help others like herself, Mrs. Gina Cayne deserves praise. I would like to extend my gratitude to Mrs. Cayne for her service to the grieving families of Monmouth County. In addition, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a remarkable woman whose career in non-profit work has positively shaped the lives of all her foundation touches.

RECOGNIZING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUVENILE COURTS IN CALIFORNIA

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 101st anniversary of the Juvenile Courts in California. As a result of the tireless efforts of the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC), a bill was passed and signed into law by Governor George C. Pardee establishing the California juvenile court system on February 26, 1903. California became the seventh state to establish a juvenile court system with the first courts in San Francisco and Los Angeles—only 4 years after the nation's first juvenile court began in Chicago, Illinois.

Until the 19th century, children were confined and punished according to the standards established by criminal courts—adults and juveniles, men and women, sane and insane criminals were treated the same. CFWC fought to establish a system that would consider that children may have less than fully developed moral and cognitive capacities. The CFWC's umbrella organization, the General Foundation for Women's Clubs established 75 percent of the nation's libraries and was the national model for juvenile courts upon which California's system is based.

The California Federation of Women's Clubs, chartered in 1900, sought legislation to create a separate court system for juveniles based on the understanding that children are inherently different from adults and that the state has a certain responsibility to protect and rehabilitate young offenders. Juvenile courts provide rehabilitation and benevolent supervision based on the concept of *parens patriae* (the State as Parent), allowing the state to intervene in the interest of protecting the child. The focus of the juvenile court was on the offender, not on the offense, on rehabilitation, not punishment.

Because of the actions of the CFWC, criminal cases involving individuals under the age of eighteen began to be adjudicated in a juvenile court. The CFWC also funded the courts until the courts were included in the State budget. This system allowed courts to provide a standard procedure for processing the crimes committed by juvenile offenders while paying additional attention to the special needs and circumstances of children. Over the years juvenile courts have evolved to more closely resemble the criminal justice system.

Today the CFWC continues to work for adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane facilities for children. In addition to creating the Juvenile Courts of California, CFWC members strive to promote education, literacy, healthy lifestyles, preservation of natural resources, crime prevention, art appreciation and increased international understanding. The organization contributes an average of 4 million volunteer hours and \$3 million on 25,000 projects annually.

The California Federation of Women's Clubs is a non-profit, charitable organization that was organized in January 1900, becoming the thirty-seventh state to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs—which is one of the largest and oldest volunteer organizations in the world. "Strength United is Stronger" was chosen as the motto and still holds true today as the Clubs working together make a difference throughout the world.

HONORING REV. DR. ISAIAH  
SCIPIO, JR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the membership and friends of the Itinerant Ministry of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to honor my friend Rev. Dr. Isaiah Scipio, Jr., for fifty five years of spiritual leadership within the Christian Methodist community. On Saturday, February 28, 2004 the friends of Rev. Dr. Isaiah Scipio,

Jr., will honor him during a retirement luncheon celebration to be held at the Sarvis Conference Center in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Rev. Isaiah Scipio, Jr. was born in Darlington, South Carolina on July 11, 1923 to Isaiah Sr. and Margaret Scipio. He graduated from Mayo High School. He was drafted into the U.S. Air Corps December of 1942, where he served honorably as a Technical Sergeant until August of 1946. After his tour of duty he enrolled at the University of Southern California where he received a Bachelor of Business Arts degree in 1959. In 1947 Rev. Scipio received his license to preach, and two years later in 1949 he was ordained Deacon and Elder. He earned his Master of Theology from the University of Southern California School of Religion. In 1947 a year after receiving his receiving his Theology Doctorate, he was assigned interim pastor of the New Era C.M.E. Church of South Los Angeles, California. Rev. Scipio from this point forward would be known as the traveling preacher. He has had the honor of spreading the word to congregations in California, Michigan, New York, Richmond, Virginia, Indiana and Ohio. From 1959–1962 Rev. Scipio served under Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr. as President of the Western Christian Leadership Conference. He served two years as the President of the Greater Flint Council of Church. In 1970 he was elected General Secretary of the board of Missions, supervising work in Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, West Africa, Haiti and Jamaica. In 1993 he transferred to Flint, Michigan and was assigned to his current position as pastor of Dozier Memorial C.M.E. Church. As the passage of 2 Cor 9:13–14 reads "While, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men. And by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you." Rev. Scipio, you have championed for Christ for fifty-five years and the community thanks you.

Rev. Scipio is also an outstanding father, grandfather and husband. He is married to Marion and they have two lovely daughters, Brenda and Deborah and three lovely granddaughters: Stephanie, Donya and Shonna.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my constituent and friend Rev. Dr. Isaiah Scipio for his outstanding service to the Christian community.

COMMEMORATING THE PRESIDENT  
OF TUNISIA'S RECENT VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON, DC

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the recent visit to Washington, DC by the President of the Republic of Tunisia, His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. President Ben Ali met with President Bush on Wednesday, February 18, 2004. During the meeting President Bush praised the social progress in Tunisia and welcomed its leader as a partner in the fight against terrorism.

The United States and Tunisia have maintained a strong relationship throughout both

our histories. Tunisia has been a crucial partner in the Mediterranean region through first the Cold War and, more recently, in our current efforts to fight terrorism. Our relationship has grown even stronger in the last few years. In December 2003, Tunis was chosen as the regional center for the Middle East Partnership Initiative, a Near Eastern affairs program to promote democracy and political reform in the region. This is a welcome development because Tunisia plays a crucial role in stabilizing Middle East politics.

President Bush rightly praised the government in Tunisia for working with the United States in fighting terrorism, for a "modern and viable" education system and for giving equal rights to women. Tunisia can help the Middle East achieve greater reform and freedom, something that is necessary for peace for the long term.

As a friend of Tunisia, I again commemorate the recent visit by His Excellency President Ben Ali. This meeting was an opportunity to highlight the longstanding relations between our two countries and the friendship shared by our two peoples. It was also an occasion to strengthen our joint efforts on the international scene for the causes of peace, security, human dignity and development.

AMERICA AT RISK—ANNIVERSARY  
REPORT ON THE STATE OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my fellow Members of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security from this side of the aisle to underscore the importance of a report issued by Ranking Member Turner entitled *America at Risk: Closing the Security Gap*. This report answers the question of whether we are as safe as we need to be one year after the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the negative.

Despite the fact that for fiscal year 2005, DHS is slated to receive \$40.2 billion in total funding, representing a \$3.7 billion—or 10 percent increase relative to the fiscal year 2004 level of \$36.5 billion, there still exist major problems in the Department's overall function.

There is an emergency situation occurring in Haiti right now, such that political upheaval and the threat of murder is forcing people to flee the country for our borders. Over the past two days, at least two boats full of Haitians have arrived at our borders. Neither the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) nor our nation as a whole is prepared for the mass exodus that may arrive.

I will support a bill sponsored by our colleague Mr. MEEK of Florida to designate Haiti under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow Haitian refugees to obtain Temporary Protective Status (TPS). I have signed on to join my brother today in fact to take leadership in this crisis.

Furthermore, I will introduce a piece of legislation, the "Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2003." Section 502 of this bill responds to Attorney General Ashcroft's decision in *Matter of D-J-*, 23 I&N Dec. 572 (AG

2003), in which he denied bond release to a Haitian on the ground that giving bond to undocumented refugees who come to the United States by sea would cause adverse consequences for national security and sound immigration policy.

This legislation would permit the adjustment of status for Haitians who meet the following categories:

- (1) The individual would have to be a native or citizen of Haiti;
- (2) The individual would have to have been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States; and
- (3) The individual would have to have been physically present in the United States for at least one year.

It will be critical for BICE to have a system in place that will process these individuals but not illegally and excessively detain them or otherwise violate their civil liberties.

The United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program's (US-VISIT) first phase is deployed at 115 airports and 14 seaports. US VISIT was designed to expedite the arrival and departure of legitimate travelers, while making it more difficult for those intending to do us harm to enter our nation.

The budget for FY 2005 provides \$340 million in 2005, an increase of \$12 million over the FY 2004 funding to continue expansion of the US VISIT system. In his testimony in the Full Committee hearing held on February 12, 2004, Secretary Ridge indicated that "over \$1 billion will be used to support [US-VISIT]." Unfortunately, he failed to adequately address how the budgetary plan will address the following issues:

That US-VISIT will not be effective for border security.

That it will impede U.S.-Mexican trade.

That it will discourage legitimate international travel and hinder South Texas retail.

That it essentially amounts to an anti-immigration policy under the guise of homeland security.

Harm to efficiency—Without a way to separate travelers, lines during high-volume times will be staggering, regardless of how fast the machines may operate.

Of the estimated 400 million people whom US-VISIT would process annually, 360 million would go through land ports of entry—five times more than go through airports and seaports. And unlike air and sea travelers, most land travelers do not file itineraries, carry passport information or go through personal screening.

Legitimate travelers—truckers who haul goods to warehouses just north of the border; people who live in Mexico and work in Texas rail shops or factories; Mexicans who own property in the United States—could be stuck in processing lines.

That US-VISIT targets the wrong people: Mexican and Texas businesses and people who have created an interdependent relationship.

Furthermore, there are tremendous problems with our aviation security systems. Spending on aviation security since September 11, 2001 has totaled \$14.5 billion. Since September 11, we have spent \$18 securing our skies for every \$1 spent securing ports, trucks, buses, mass transit, and pipelines combined.

Numerous media accounts tell of passengers bringing knives and guns on flights

without realizing it, and not getting caught. In the recent situation regarding Nathaniel Heatwole, it was discovered that he told the TSA that he was going to put box cutters and other potentially dangerous items on airplanes, but it still took a routine maintenance check a month later to find them.

Planes that carry only cargo are also dangerously unsecured. Many do not have hardened cockpit doors, and the pilots are not yet allowed to carry firearms.

Another problem was created by the Administration's inexplicable policy of allowing airport employees to enter secure areas of the airport without being screened in the same way passengers and pilots are. Congress has given the Administration substantial resources to do the job—more than any other aspect of homeland security. They must move faster to strengthen our front line defense against the terrorists threatening the safety of our skies and our communities.

Overall, \$890 million is provided for aviation security, a nearly 20 percent increase, including funds to improve integration of explosive detection system (EDS) equipment into individual airports' baggage processing to increase security effectiveness and promote greater efficiency.

On February 24, 2004, Fox News aired a segment on airline security that is simply shocking. It showed a video shot by a passenger on an international flight bound for the United States. While there weren't many open seats on the Air Tahiti Nui passenger jet, the cockpit door remained open. The passenger who shot the film said, "As we were rolling down the runway, the door kept slamming against the back wall." This passenger taped the open cockpit door from his first class seat on a trip from Auckland, New Zealand to Los Angeles, California with a stop-over in Tahiti. He reported that the door remained open most of the time on both legs of the flight and was closed just before the plane's decent into Los Angeles.

This incident shows the severe gaps that we have in our airline security. I have written a letter to Secretary Ridge highlighting this problem and requested that he respond with a specific plan to address it.

Poor data collection, data sharing, equipment, training, and a lack of oversight make our nation extremely vulnerable to terrorist attacks. We must act quickly to address these weaknesses in order to protect our families.

#### PRESIDENT BUSH'S FY 2005 NATIONAL BUDGET

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today being very disturbed with the direction that President Bush is taking our great nation. The prime reason for my concern is the President's budget that was submitted to this body a few weeks ago. It has become apparent to me that this Administration has lost all sense of reality when it comes to satisfying the needs of average Americans. I say this not out of partisanship, but from a statement of the facts. This President decided that multiple tax cuts for the rich would outweigh the pro-

grams and services most needed by average Americans. The truth is staggering; by 2009 discretionary spending outside of Homeland Security will be \$47 billion less than current levels. In fact, by 2009 the tax cuts this Administration has sponsored will cost more than the cuts in discretionary spending outside of Homeland Security. This means that so many of the programs and services that average Americans rely upon will be cut drastically, all in an effort to finance irresponsible tax cuts that only benefit a small fraction of wealthy Americans.

The truth is that this President is trying to hide from the American people the amount of cuts in important programs that his budget contains. For the first time, this President's 2005 published budget materials do not show discretionary funding totals, or program or account totals, beyond 2005. Again, this President is out of touch with the American people, and worse still he is trying to hide his true intentions. I will not stay silent while he advocates an irresponsible agenda that is geared towards only one small sector of the American population. It is our responsibility to advocate for all Americans, and the great majority of them will be hurt by this irresponsible budget. I want to highlight a few areas in this budget that are particularly egregious.

Education: This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the historic Supreme Court decision that desegregated America's schools. I would not be true to the principles of Brown v. Board of Education if I did not address the current state of our nation's education system. It pains me to do so, I'd much rather stand here and celebrate our great victory from 50 years ago, but to do so and ignore the needs of our nation's children would be a slap in the face to all that we have fought for. At the top of the list of my concerns is the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the fact that it has not lived up to its mandate. In the years before Brown v. Board of Education the proponents of "separate but equal" might have said that no black child was being left behind, but we know that to have been a lie. Likewise we know under the current state of affairs that the idea that American children are not being left behind is a farce.

President Bush shortchanges his own No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by \$9.4 billion—including \$7.2 billion for Title I. The President breaks his promise to provide \$20.5 billion for Title I under NCLB. His budget will deny nearly 5 million disadvantaged children critical education services, such as extra help to become proficient in reading and math. Since NCLB was signed into law President Bush has underfunded the initiative by \$26.5 billion or 21.7 percent.

President Bush freezes or cuts college aid, forces taxes on students, and fails to stop tuition hikes. Not only does the President fail to address the rising college tuition, but he also makes college even more expensive by freezing or cutting student aid and taxing students.

President Bush jeopardizes aid to children of military families. The Bush budget freezes all Impact Aid funding at the FY 2004 level, jeopardizing programs and services for children of military families.

President Bush breaks his NCLB promise on afterschool programs. The Bush budget freezes funding for afterschool programs. As a result, nearly 1.3 million children will be shut out of afterschool programs.

President Bush makes certain that full funding of special education will never happen. The Bush budget proposes a \$1 billion increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This marks the 4th year in a row President Bush has proposed this exact level of increase, placing disabled students at an even greater disadvantage. At this rate of increase, we will never reach full funding of IDEA.

President Bush cuts \$316 million from vocational education and community colleges—again. The Bush Budget would cut \$316 million, or nearly 25 percent, from vocational education. On top of this, President Bush has cut more than \$1.5 billion out of job training and vocational education programs since he took office. In addition, the budget proposes to turn this program into a block grant to states, eliminating accountability and targeting of resources to disadvantaged students and programs.

We all know that education is one of the most important priorities for our great nation. Our children's success or failure will be the true indicator of our effectiveness in this body. The generation of African American leaders who preceded us spent their lives making sure that all children would be able to get educated and have the ability to succeed that every American was entitled to. This President's budget threatens that very core principle. This is more than rhetoric; this idea is based on staggering facts. Of the 65 programs cut completely from the Bush budget, 39 of them were education programs. This President believes America will be better off if the richest Americans get \$66,000 tax cuts, but he doesn't believe our children will be better with programs

like Dropout Prevention, Even Start and School Leadership, all of which are now obsolete under his proposal. This President has a different set of priorities when he believes that hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts for our children's education will be better for America. We as a body of the people can not allow this flawed budget proposal to stand. Our children's future and in turn the future prosperity of this nation is at stake.

**Veterans:** Our brave American veterans are another group who will have to suffer if this Bush budget is allowed to be put into effect. Funding for America's veterans will be cut by \$13.5 billion over the next five years. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs himself has testified that the Veterans Affairs (VA) budget just for 2005 is \$1.2 billion below the amount that the VA requested from the White House, and that the funding levels for 2006 through 2009 in the President's budget may not be realistic. What other proof needs to be shown that this President and his Administration are simply not in touch with reality when it comes to the needs of our nation. I want to stress that funding for our veterans is not a luxury or an option, it's a requirement. When our veterans went off into service for America and risked their lives they didn't give a half hearted commitment, sadly this President can not say the same for his commitment to our veterans.

I have talked to a number of veterans groups from my district and they are all screaming for better health care for themselves and their families. They have a right to be angry, they gave a sacrifice to this nation that no other group can claim and the treatment they receive in this President's budget is unacceptable. I stand in solidarity with our

brave veterans and everyone else in this body who would like to say the same must be against this President's budget. His proposal does nothing to increase health care coverage for our veterans and their families. I am asking this President, that without proper medical coverage how can any proposal for funding of Veterans Affairs ever be worthwhile?

Education and Veterans Affairs make up only two areas where this President's budget fails Americans. The truth is there are many other programs and services vital to our nation that are at risk because of this Administration. At this point, an average American may be asking why this President finds it necessary to cut so many fundamental programs. The answer is simple, yet disturbing; this President is cutting important programs in order to finance his irresponsible tax cuts. He will continue to make the argument that tax cuts provide stimulus for our economy, but millions of unemployed Americans will tell you otherwise. In fact the Congressional Budget Office itself said "tax legislation will probably have a net negative effect on saving, investment, and capital accumulation over the next 10 years." Yet, this President continues to push forward his failing policies, as he does he falls farther and farther away from the reality faced by average Americans. This body was made to stand for the will of all Americans; if we allow this budget proposal to take effect we will have failed our mandate. I for one will not stand by silently; I have a duty to my constituents and indeed to all Americans to work for their well being and I will continue to honor that duty.